Greene County Public Library (Ohio)
0 53 85 2501733 0

Montgomery County School

HISTORY

and

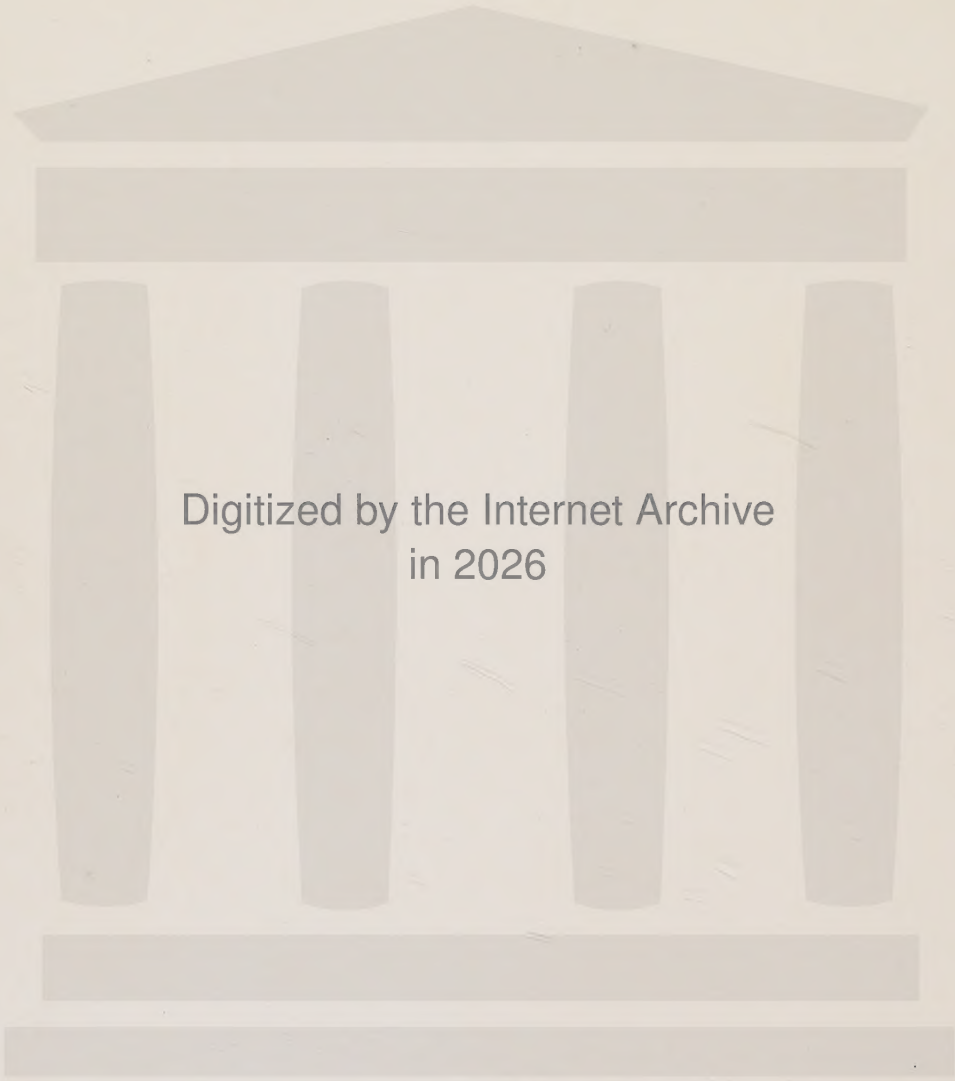
ANNUAL

1926

Silas E. Daily,
Dayton
Ohio.

GREENE COUNTY ROOM
GREENE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
76 EAST MARKET STREET
XENIA, OH 45385

GREENE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026

https://archive.org/details/montgomerycounty0000vari_c3t9

Montgomery County History and Annual

Compiled and edited by a committee of superintendents from the Montgomery County school district.

D. A. PUDERBAUGH.....Editor-in-chief
C. F. MEYER.....Associate Editor
C. W. PLESSINGER.....Associate Editor
JOHN E. SMITH.....Associate Editor
A. E. CLAGETT.....Associate Editor

Dayton, Ohio
THE CHRISTIAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
1926

SUPT. A. A. MAYSILLES

Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools
from August 1, 1914, to August 1, 1926

Dedicated

to

ANDREW A. MAYSILLES

Teacher; Superintendent; Publicist; Orator; Christian Gentleman; whose whole career may be summed up in the words, "He served wherever duty called."

Introduction

This volume has been prepared to meet the need for an up-to-date History of the Schools of Montgomery County, and as a tribute to the worth of former County Superintendent of Schools A. A. Maysilles, who for more than a quarter of a century has contributed so emphatically to the progress and advancement of educational, religious, and social ideals in Montgomery County and in the State of Ohio.

An attempt has been made to have the History elaborate and noteworthy; but to be made elaborate and noteworthy required the services and interest and devotion of a man of the type of Assistant County Superintendent D. A. Puderbaugh, who in many ways is peculiarly fitted for such an undertaking. Accordingly, by unanimous vote of the body of School Superintendents of Montgomery County, Mr. Puderbaugh was named Editor-in-Chief. A committee of Superintendents has assisted him throughout his arduous tasks. This committee is composed of the following: C. W. Plessinger, C. F. Meyer, John E. Smith, and A. E. Clagett.

Much of his time during the past six months has been given by Mr. Puderbaugh to collecting, organizing, and editing the materials contained in this volume. School districts and schools concerned are scattered over a wide expanse of territory, necessitating much driving, correspondence, and telephoning on the part of the editor. But his labors are partially rewarded at least in the recognition he thus receives for having made a real contribution to the History of the Schools of Montgomery County. Mr. Puderbaugh has served the schools in nearly all parts of Montgomery County, and he has personally known Superintendent A. A. Maysilles from the latter's childhood. Therefore, no man in Montgomery County is better fitted for the editorship of such a volume as this than Superintendent Puderbaugh.

This History has been prepared and printed at a total cost of approximately $2,000.00, which is somewhat in excess of the first estimate; but the book has been enlarged, and the number of pictures contained therein has been greatly augmented. The greater portion of the book is given over to setting forth the progress of the Montgomery County Schools since 1914, in which year the Cox School Code went into effect, with Superintendent A. A. Maysilles as the first County Superintendent of Schools; yet, many references to schools and educational leaders of years long previous to 1914 are made.

The editor asks to have expressed here his indebtedness to the committee and to numerous others for the kindly assistance given him in the course of the preparation of this volume. He is very thankful indeed for the spirit of co-operation constantly evident among his helpers.

With a deep conviction that this History of the Montgomery County Schools will result in pleasure, profit, and satisfaction to thousands of interested readers, and with the belief that every school library and every public library within Montgomery County should contain a copy, the volume is sent forth.

Very cordially,
C. W. PLESSINGER,
Co. Supt. of Schools.

Dayton, Ohio, November 1, 1926.

CONTENTS

	Page
Supt. A. A. Maysilles	Frontispiece
Introduction	4
Supt. C. W. Plessinger	6
Biography of A. A. Maysilles	14
Honorable James M. Cox	26
Directors of Education	27
County Board Members	29
Assistant County Superintendents	35
Health Commissioner	41
Prosecuting Attorney	43
Montgomery County Commissioners	46
Athletics in Montgomery County	47
Brookville Schools	51
Butler Township Schools	61
Clay Township Schools	70
Ebenezer Schools	74
Germantown Schools	81
German Township Schools	89
Harrison Township Schools	94
Jackson Township Schools	104
Jefferson Township Schools	108
Johnsville-New Lebanon Schools	110
Madison Township Schools	115
Mad River Township Schools	131
Miami Township Schools	137
Miamisburg Schools	142
Oakwood Schools	155
Perry Township Schools	161
Phillipsburg School	172
Randolph Township Schools	174
Van Buren Township Schools	185
Washington Township Schools	204
Wayne Township Schools	210
West Carrollton Schools	213

County Superintendent C. W. Flessinger

County Superintendent C. W. Plessinger

By A. A. Maysilles

In the selection of my successor as County Superintendent, I had no other part than to request the County Board of Education to select him from my associates who had given me every possible assistance in my twelve years of service. I assured the Board that there were at least a half-dozen men among the local superintendents who could fill the position creditably.

Only three of these superintendents expressing a willingness to serve, I would have been happy in the selection of either one of the three and I am certain that the schools would have been safe in the hands of any one of them.

Superintendent Charles W. Plessinger, of West Carrollton, was finally selected to guide the educational destinies of the thousands of children of Montgomery County and he can do it.

Mr. Plessinger was born September 15, 1881, near Greenville, Ohio, on a farm, being the seventh child of a family of fourteen children, eight boys and six girls. This family, counting the father and mother who taught school, has furnished to Ohio nine teachers.

He had the usual difficulties of the boy in farm life, magnified somewhat by the size of the family to which he belonged, but it was here that he learned the habits of industry and the lessons of economy and perseverance which have been so valuable to him in adult life, for it took all of these to educate himself and accomplish for himself and others the many things to his credit.

He has attended school at the National Normal University, Lebanon, Ohio; the Tri-State Normal School, Angola, Indiana; Shauck's English and Classical Training School, Dayton, Ohio; Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; was graduated from Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio, in 1908; and Columbia University, New York.

Perhaps the most practical and valuable training ever received by Mr Plessinger was when, as tutor to Frederick Patterson, son of the late John H. Patterson, of Dayton, Ohio, founder and President of The National Cash Register Co., he was privileged to travel in Germany, France, England, Scotland, and Wales, where he familiarized himself with the schools of these foreign countries.

His first school was a one-room school in which all grades were taught, in Greenville Township, of Darke County, Ohio. His first school in Montgomery County was the same kind of school, south of Farmersville, Ohio, known as the Jackson and German Townships Sub-district School.

Mr. Plessinger came to the West Carrollton schools in 1911, with but the shadow of the modern high school. The building was antiquated. There were eighteen pupils in the local high school, with dozens of qualified high school pupils going in all directions to other high schools. He had one assistant. He did most of the teaching. All this has changed under his supervision and no other high school in Montgomery County has surpassed it, in accomplishments, in the last fifteen years.

West Carrollton now has a large modern school building of fifty rooms. It has one hundred thirty-six high school pupils, including pupils from other

school districts. High school travel is now toward West Carrollton, instead of away from it. There are ten teachers in the high school.

In June, 1908, Mr. Plessinger was married to Miss Elsie Adele Barr, of Middletown, Ohio. They have one son, Robert, sixteen years old, who is in the Junior Class of the West Carrollton High School.

Mr. Plessinger has taught in every kind of school which he will be required to supervise. He is an educated man. He limits his activities to the field of education. He is a tireless worker. He is fearless in what he thinks to be right. He is safely progressive. He is sympathetic and helpful. Many a boy and girl has received material aid from him in the early struggles of life. He has earned the co-operation of his fellow superintendents and his teachers by his own example. No schools surpassed the West Carrollton schools in loyalty to the county system. The County Superintendent was always wanted and was welcome in their midst. Their publicity recognized their connection with the county schools.

In Mr. Plessinger, the patrons will have an educational leader of the highest type; the teachers will have a competent, safe counselor in times of difficulty; the children will have a powerful advocate of all things promising for them better educational facilities.

A LETTER FROM MR. MAYSILLES TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

Curtis, Michigan, July 31, 1926.

Dear Superintendents:

This is my last day as County Superintendent of the Schools of Montgomery County.

Dropping out of a profession, in which I have engaged for more than thirty-seven years, is neither an easy task nor a pleasant one and at this moment, in the great North Woods, I have a queer feeling of loneliness which I hope will not continue.

Many thoughts of the past and queries of the future are racing through my mind.

In a mood like this, I should be mean indeed if I failed to recall your many active kindnesses toward me and your passive endurance of my many weaknesses.

Some of you helped me to get my position twelve years ago. All of you have been quite solicitous of my welfare during my many months of severe illness. These manifestations of interest in me have been numerous and shall never be forgotten.

It is sad indeed for me to know that our past professional relations end today, but there is comfort in the thought that you will transfer your kindnesses to one of our own number, my worthy successor, Mr. Plessinger, and that you will continue to keep in your affections a small place for me, as I shall a large one for you.

For twelve long years or less, I have enjoyed your associations as your leader.

I am proud enough to feel that there has been wonderful progress in the educational affairs of Montgomery County during my administration of twelve years, but I am not selfish enough to claim any great amount of credit therefor.

No County Superintendent was ever surrounded by a more loyal, co-operative, and efficient set of school men and women than it has been my good fortune to have as co-laborers.

I have profited greatly by the fact that many of you have had professional equipment vastly superior to mine, and that this fact, known to you as well as to myself, did not interfere with the magnificent team work, which in every instance of importance framed our school policies.

I recall today that many of you fought my battles in my absence and suffered some unpopularity with school patrons sometimes in upholding me.

For all of these things, I sincerely thank you and shall never knowingly neglect an opportunity to be of service to you in your educational affairs.

The changes wrought by us in the schools of Montgomery County have been revolutionary and costly, but I have no regrets for any forward movement in which we engaged.

Time has already proved the wisdom of these changes in giving to the youth of our county the educational facilities to which they were entitled.

I shall be happy many times in recounting the pleasures of my term of office and shall keep my heart full of gratitude for the helpfulness of your associations with me.

And now, as County Superintendent, I bid you an affectionate adieu.

May God prosper you, keep you and your families well, and make you happy.

Sincerely yours,

A. A. MAYSILLES.

RESOLUTION

Honoring Supt. A. A. Maysilles

Dayton, Ohio, July 31, 1926.

WHEREAS, the undersigned, feeling deeply the severance of official school relationships between themselves on the one hand, and County Superintendent of Schools, A. A. Maysilles on the other—this severance being occasioned by the voluntary retirement of Mr. Maysilles, August 1st, 1926, from the position of Superintendent of Schools of Montgomery County, Ohio, which position he has held with distinction and honor since August 1, 1914, and which service had been preceded by twenty-five years as a teacher and superintendent within Montgomery County; and possessing an abiding feeling of gratefulness and appreciation for the services and kindnesses rendered our body by Mr. Maysilles through a long period of years; and being cognizant of the exalted ideals constantly held before our body by Mr. Maysilles; and recognizing in Mr. Maysilles a most brilliant County and State leader in the field of education, a forceful and magnetic orator in the advocacy of the cause of temperance, an able counselor in the direction of progressive school legislation, and a virile leader contributing materially to the cause of the public welfare; therefore, be it

Resolved, by our body of Superintendents assembled in meeting in Mr. Maysilles' office, Dayton, Ohio, this thirty-first day of July, 1926, that we regret the severance of this official school relationship; that we recognize in this permanent manner our obligations to Mr. Maysilles, and his notable services to the generation now grown, and to the younger generation as well; that we recognize his superhuman efforts in the cause of temperance; that we hold in reverence his high ideals of justice and right, his exalted ideals of sincerity, fairness, and integrity, and his love and admiration for the spirit of democracy; that we realize his place among us will be difficult to fill; and that we publish to the world these notable and distinctive services and ideals of Mr. Maysilles, the Christian Gentleman, the Children's Friend, the Teacher's Friend, our Friend, our Counselor, and our Leader. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mr. Maysilles, a copy to the County Board of Education, a copy to each Board of Education within Montgomery County, including the City of Dayton, and a copy to each daily and weekly newspaper published within Montgomery County, Ohio.

Charles W. Plessinger, West Carrollton, Ohio
W. H. Vandervere, Farmersville
W. W. Helwig, Johnsville-New Lebanon
D. A. Puderbaugh, 910 Edison Ave., Dayton
Geo. W. Kemp, Attendance Officer
Florence M. Vallery, Secretary
Arthur E. Clagett, 24 Spirea Drive, Dayton
Harris V. Bear, Miamisburg, Ohio
Chester Johnston, Brookville, Ohio
Olney S. Weaver, Germantown, Ohio
Chas. F. Meyer, Trotwood, Ohio
E. E. McClellan, Germantown, Ohio
Dwight L. Barnes, Van Buren Township
J. H. Propst, Harrison and Mad River Townships
Floyd O. Rasor, 32 Clio Ave., Dayton, Ohio
W. A. Driscoll, Centerville, Ohio
H. A. Matheny, Phillipsburg, Ohio.

A. A. MAYSILLES AS SUPERINTENDENT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

By J. H. Propst

No more fitting or better prepared man could have been selected to organize the schools of Montgomery County than that found in the person of Andrew A. Maysilles, of Brookville, Ohio. Mr. Maysilles was a recognized leader in education, clean politics, and church and Sunday-school work. His eloquent and peppy addresses on educational and current topics were welcomed in every community in the county. These addresses won for him the respect and confidence of the better elements of society. No other school man could have been found who would have had the advantage of such an acquaintance.

On the eighteenth day of July, in 1914, at ten o'clock A. M., the first meeting of the Board of Education of Montgomery County was called to organize and elect a County Superintendent of Schools. The meeting was

called by H. C. Ryder, temporary chairman. J. W. Smith was made temporary secretary. Herman S. Fox, George O'Brien, H. C. Ryder, Joseph E. Seigel, and J. W. Smith answered to roll call. Herman S. Fox was chosen as president of the board and George O'Brien as vice-president. A. A. Maysilles was then unanimously elected as County Superintendent of Schools for a period of three years, at a salary of $3,000 per year, beginning on the first day of August following the election. He was given a cordial reception everywhere he went.

Mr. Maysilles at once announced his slogan, "The Child First." This slogan he has upheld throughout his administration. It was in answer to this principle that he did so much to encourage centralization and reorganization of the schools and courses of study of the county. His first request of the teachers of the county at the Teachers' Institute was that the Holy Bible be read in every schoolroom at least three mornings of each week. His knowledge of the educational advantages of centralized schools prompted him to throw his whole strength into the movement and the county can now boast of a great number of modern centralized and consolidated schools.

The County Superintendent instituted the County High School Literary Contests, which have revealed hidden talent in music as well as in literary events. These contests have helped hundreds of boys and girls to think and speak in public. Other counties have copied the idea with marked success.

Mr. Maysilles kept posted on all things educational and insisted that mental tests be given with the utmost care. He emphasized the importance of the teaching of reading and writing in the lower grades and English and spelling in all grades and high school.

He was a member of The National Educational Association, The Ohio State Teachers' Association, The Central Ohio Teachers' Association, and The Western Ohio Superintendents' Round-Table. He held various offices in these organizations and served with credit and distinction on a number of resolutions and legislative committees.

To illustrate his alertness in an emergency, the following account is narrated:

In December of 1915, an organized effort was staged and resolutions prepared by a group of professional men to overthrow the so-called "Cox School Code." They employed a lady lobbyist to constantly keep in touch with the legislators and carry their campaign to a successful end. A unique program had been arranged for the Rural Superintendents' Division of The Ohio State Teachers' Association for the express purpose of securing their endorsement of the resolutions. After the "learned doctors" had orated from the platform according to schedule, and, as it were, the heavy artillery had ceased firing to cool, the actual struggle began. A charge was led from the floor by A. A. Maysilles, who captured the house. His keen insight into the avowed purpose and propaganda of the "smoking artillery" had stirred his blood. They had trespassed upon his sense of justice and fair play. Thus, filled with a righteous indignation, his eloquent tongue cut like a two-edged sword into the very heart of their plot and threw its partisan professional perpetrators into a confusion which changed their course and permitted the statute to stand. On this and many other occasions his strength was recognized by the school men of the State of Ohio.

In his supervision work, Mr. Maysilles was never dictatorial, but always advocated democracy and practiced it. Every school question of importance was brought before his body of superintendents, discussed openly, and voted upon by that body before it was announced as a request of boards of education or made a policy for superintendents or teachers to carry into effect.

Every school and community in Montgomery County has profited by his unstinted services. His day never closed until all his calls were answered. No road was too long nor night too stormy for him to answer a call of a friend, to appear on a program, or to meet a board of education that was in trouble. When you expected him, he was there to give of his talent, strength, and means, as the case demanded. Weeks and sometimes months passed with every day and evening filled with engagements to serve the public in some capacity. With all his work and worry, he was patient and considerate and practiced all those Christian virtues which bring joy and sweet repose to the pillow of him who lies down to rest. If you were to ask him why he subjected himself to this strenuous work, he would reply in some such words as those used by Ernest Thompson Seton in his "Trail of the Sand Hill Stag," where Yan, when asked why he exposed himself all night long to the bitter winds of Kennedy's Plains, replied, "These are the best days of my life; these are my golden days." The writer has served in the office with Mr. Maysilles for the full term of his incumbency and knows of no more fitting words than these, "These were our golden days."

TEMPERANCE ACTIVITIES

When Mr. Maysilles came to Brookville as superintendent of schools, he was not concerned about the liquor question. There were four saloons in town and he was not a teetotaler. He held the usual views of the average young man of his day about the saloon. The keepers thereof were friendly to him, some of whom had rendered him accommodations of various sorts.

When he found that some of his pupils were drinking, he was much worried and embarrassed.

One day he asked a frequenter of the saloons to visit them for him and ask them to refuse liquor to his pupils. Three of them returned word that they would, while the fourth sent back a vile epithet with advice to Maysilles that he mind his own business or they would see "That he moves on."

Mr. Maysilles accepted the challenge and sent back word that "When the next boy comes into my school drunk, we shall see who moves on, Maysilles or the saloons."

Six weeks later a sixteen-year-old boy came into school intoxicated. Mr. Maysilles found out from him the names of the boys who had been buying liquor. He called the Drs. W. J. Pruner and N. H. Royer, pastors of the United Brethren and Lutheran Churches respectively, who joined him in making an investigation before twenty-five patrons of the schools.

It was shown that boys, from ten years old up, were taking up penny, nickel, and dime collections and sending the older ones for beer in any quantities for which they had money to pay; that drinking parties had been conducted on the ice during the winters when girls had been offered drinks of whisky out of bottles.

A meeting was called in the Lutheran Church for the following Sunday by the patrons present at the investigation. The church was not large enough to hold the people. as many standing on the outside as inside. Rev. N. H. Royer made the address, emphasizing the juvenile delinquency due to the youthful drinking parties as exposed in the investigation.

A petition was signed at this meeting, presented to the Council the following night, an election called in ten days, and four saloons of the village of Brookville were voted out by a majority of sixty-nine (69), never to return.

Then followed five school fights, over a period of ten years, against Mr. Maysilles as school superintendent of Brookville. The breweries and liquor interests, locally and in the city, financed the red-hot campaigns against him. He won each time handsomely by majorities of from two to one to four to one. The women of the village voted almost unanimously for candidates for the board of education favorable to him.

The Brookville contests attracted state-wide attention and Mr. Maysilles was much in demand as a "Dry" speaker. He became so well known in the movement in Ohio that he held the presidency of the Ohio Dry Federation during the years of the final prohibition contests in the State.

In politics, Mr. Maysilles was one of the few school men who could and did participate actively in partisan politics. He insisted that every teacher is entitled to all of the prerogatives of an American citizen. He believes it the duty of every good citizen to belong to a political party and vote at every primary and election.

He is a Democrat, but believes that the best service he can render to his party is to teach it to nominate good men by helping to defeat bad ones.

He has spoken for his party candidates, whenever they were worthy, for the past thirty-five years. For this activity he, in his earlier years, paid a price. He was defeated for the position of superintendent, for which he applied in Butler, Van Buren, Washington, and Randolph Townships because of his enthusiasm and public speeches for W. J. Bryan in all of his presidential campaigns.

However, he managed to progress in his profession without these positions and by persistence has helped to gain for every superintendent and teacher in Montgomery County the right to belong to any political party which suits him and to participate actively in its affairs. In the twelve years of his term, no teacher or superintendent has been placed because of political affiliations and none have been refused positions because of the ticket he voted.

The County Boards of Education have varied from four Democrats to one Republican, to four Republicans to one Democrat.

Mr. Maysilles served one term as Mayor of Brookville following its vote "Dry" and soon put an end to the illicit sale of liquor in that village during his term.

He was twice a candidate for the nomination for Congress and although he stood second each time, he failed of nomination because of the "Wet" vote in the Democratic Party in the Third District.

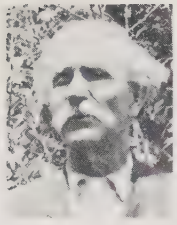
A Short Biography of A. A. Maysilles

By D. A. Puderbaugh

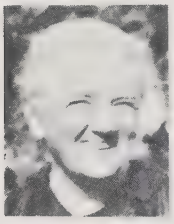
Andrew A. Maysilles, the oldest of four children born to Benjamin and Rachel Maysilles, first saw the light of day April 21, 1870, in Lanier Township on the old Election House corner south of West Alexandria, Preble County, Ohio. Two brothers, Melvin and John Emory, passed away at the early age of six and four respectively. One sister, Lorene Florence, was born into this home. She taught school for a number of years in Clay Township and then became the wife of Dr. S. T. Pyper, a teacher at Centerville, Ohio.

The father was a blacksmith and worked at his trade in Lanier Township, Farmersville, Johnsville, and then at Arlington, having moved there in the spring of 1880, when Andrew was barely ten years of age. The father was industrious and found sufficient spare time to raise a few acres of tobacco each year, to assist in properly clothing and feeding the family. However, it was a constant struggle to keep poverty from the door and only the necessities of life found their way hitherto.

B. F. Maysilles at the age of 25.



B. F. Maysilles at the age of 70.



Rachel F. Maysilles still living

Of his parents, Mr. Maysilles says: "Measured in terms of love and ambition for their son's welfare, no boy ever had a better father and mother than I had. All their thoughts and activities seemed to be centered upon me. No labor was too hard, no sacrifice was too great, for them to make for me. Out of their extreme poverty, they found the means to put me through high school. The greatest sorrow of my life has been the loss of my father, who went away just about the time I was ready to show him some of the luxuries and pleasures of life, of which he had so few."

He first attended schoool in Lanier Township, Preble County, Ohio, in a one-room building south of Enterprise, where his first teacher was Mr. O. B., familiary known as Bennett, Eickenberry. The term was six months, followed by a spring term, taught by Miss Susan Ullrich. His only textbook was a speller, and at the end of the first year he knew the alphabet forward and backward, could print and make the letters in script, and could spell ab, eb, ib, ob, and ub. He next attended school in Jackson Township, Montgomery

County, first with John Harter as teacher in the first school building north of Farmersville, and later in the first school building south of Johnsville, with Albert Weaver as teacher. Both school buildings were on the Farmersville and Johnsville Pike. He remembers Mr. Weaver very distinctly for the spanking administered by him, which was Mr. Maysilles' first paddling in school.

When the family moved to Arlington, now Vorhees, in the spring of 1880, a lifelong friendship was formed between the Maysilles and Puderbaugh families, so much so that the joys and sorrows of one became the joys and sorrows of the other. Mr. Maysilles inherited from his father a love for outdoor life, especially that of hunting and fishing, which still calls him to the forests for an annual outing. From his mother came much of sympathy and inspiration for his desire to secure an education.

This is the log hut in which Mr. Maysilles lived when he first started to school in Lanier Township, Preble County, Ohio. It had two rooms and an attic. The picture was taken after its abandonment and later it was torn down.

The Arlington School in Clay Township was known throughout Montgomery County as one that fitted young people for the teaching profession and hence had a number of the very best teachers available. Into this school came Mr. Maysilles in September, 1880, under the instruction of Ephraim Somers, a most excellent teacher, a man of pure and lofty ideals. Mr. Maysilles studied under the following teachers in the order named: Alonzo Disher, E. P. Vaughn, Dr. Riley, now of Vandalia, Ohio, John E. Barnes, and William Beachler. Under Mr. Barnes, Mr. Maysilles received his next and last chastisement, which was perhaps because he was whipped twice in the same day. Later Mr. Barnes taught school with Mr. Maysilles as County Superintendent and gave him loyal support.

The summer vacation days of Mr. Maysilles during his boyhood days found him busy trying to earn a few extra dollars, if possible, for buying books

and clothing for the following winter. Sometimes he was at the anvil with his father, at other times hoeing tobacco, peddling fish from an old spring-wagon, or gathering bones throughout the country for a Dayton fertilizer factory. He delighted in honest toil and was generous to all his associates. In school he took a special delight in grammar and kindred subjects and was ready to defend his position in debate, whether in school or out. This early training in public speaking contributed to his success as a man of affairs.

While Superintendent of the Clay Township Schools, Mr. Maysilles had the pleasure of seeing the old two-story brick school building demolished and followed by a new building of two rooms, which were so arranged as to be thrown together, thus making a large assembly room, in which were held lecture courses and debates, a new thing for this community.

Dr. S. T. Pyper, D. V. M., of Ohio State University, and his wife, Lorena Maysilles Pyper. Dr. Pyper was with the Health Department of Dayton from 1914 to 1926 and in February of 1926 became Chief Food Inspector of Cincinnati. They are the parents of Samuel Thomas Pyper, Jr., and Alice Lorena Pyper.

Brookville, under the supervision of Herman S. Fox, organized the first high school near Arlington and this school was entered by Mr. Maysilles in 1887, from which he graduated with its pioneer class in 1889. After several failures in the county examination, he received his first certificate to teach in 1889, and taught his first spring school of fifty-five days (eleven weeks) for fifty-five dollars, in the Acme School of Randolph Township.

He failed to get a winter school, although he had been employed in the Mullendore School District of Jackson Township under the old system of three directors to each school, for the winter of 1889 and 1890. When elected, he had only two votes of the three, the third vote being much in favor of the other man. Mr. Maysilles secured his boarding place in the district and when the first Monday morning came he went for the key, but found the local board in session had hired the other man by one of his supporters changing his vote, as suggested by the one who refused to support him in the first meeting. The other man got the key and taught the school. Mr. Maysilles waited.

The death of the teacher of the Air Hill School, near the close of 1889,

The first graduating class of Brookville High School. Standing, left to right, Mary Dilts, Mollie Toman, Alice Manning, and Louisa Albert. Sitting, left to right, R. M. Small, H. S. Fox, A. A. Maysilles.

created a vacancy. Mr. Maysilles was elected to fill the vacancy. He completed the term and remained here for the three years following. In 1892 he was offered his home school, through the kindness of Nathaniel Whistler, by a divided board. Fearing the effect of the opposition, he remained in the Air Hill School. In 1893 and 1894 he taught the school in District No. 2 of Clay Township. The next year he was called to the Superintendency of Clay Township and in the following year established the Clay Township High School, which grew in size until in the last year of his service, in 1898-99, there were sixty-six high school pupils in attendance, many of them from adjoining school districts. In 1899 he began his service in Brookville, where for fifteen years he continued in charge. While here, two additions to the school building were made to accommodate the ever increasing attendance. When he began, there were six or seven so-called high schools, no one of which was a school of the first grade, serving Brookville and adjoining territory.

Air Hill School, Where Mr. Maysilles Taught His First Three Winter Terms.

When he quit, the Brookville High School had absorbed them all, with a course of study covering five years of work, the fifth year being college work. The attendance at high school had quadrupled, the pupils coming from four different counties. For two years at Brookville Mr. Maysilles had supervision of the Brookville, Clay Township, Miami Township, and German Township Schools. At the close of two years of this sort of work, he failed of re-election at Miami Township, the only position which he ever held where he failed to succeed himself, if he were willing to remain. The loss of this position was due to the natural trend of Miami Township toward the village in the center, Miamisburg, which culminated finally in the disintegration of the Miami Township School District, a part of it being given to West Carrollton and the balance to Miamisburg, during the administration of Mr. Maysilles as County Superintendent. During these twenty-five years of experience he attended school during summer terms at Brookville, where Messrs. Patterson and Brumbaugh conducted a Normal; in Dayton, where T. S. Fox and others were in charge; in Miami University, and in the Ohio Normal, now the Ohio Northern University, at Ada, Ohio. From Ada he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Pedagogy. Here he was a member of the Franklin Literary Society and won the third gold medal in one of the annual oratorical contests. Mr. Freeman, now one of the professors in the O. N. U., and Mr. Maysilles were the oustanding debaters of his stay in college.

A part of his time in college he spent on law, intending at that time to pursue the practice of law, but, owing to the improvement of positions in the profession of teaching and the lukewarmness of his parents toward the profession of law, he gave it up for teaching. During his Superintendency of the Brookville Schools he had a certain pupil differing in many respects from any of the other students. The one of whom I speak was Miss Alice McNelley, who consented to change her name to Mrs. A. A. Maysilles. They were married October 6, 1901.

He received the Common School Life Certificate in 1903 and six months later the High School Life Certificate in the summer of 1904. His certificates are signed by Professors Meck, Miller, Powell, Mitchell, and Hard.

In 1914 Mr. Maysilles was the unanimous choice of the County Board of Education for County Superintendent, having been recommended to the County Board for that position by every superintendent in Montgomery County. This position he held for twelve years, until his voluntary retirement, July 31, 1926.

Mary Alice McNelly Maysilles, the daughter of Warren and Sarah McNelly, was graduated from the Brookville High School, while Mr. Maysilles was in charge, in the Class of 1901, in May and in October of the same year they were married.

Her modest, unassuming manners and her quiet disposition have proved a very useful complement to the rather stormy career of her husband. Her domestic tastes have left little time for social functions and have centered nearly all of her energies upon her home, in which are living the mother of Mr. Maysilles and an orphan girl, Sarah Ellen Wright, who came into her care at the age of five.

Miss Florence M. Vallery came into the office of Mr. Maysilles as stenographer in September of 1923 and left the office at the expiration of his term as County Superintendent in August, 1926. On August 22, 1926, she was married to Mr. Carroll Lovett and they together entered the mercantile business in Richmond, Indiana.

She was industrious, painstaking in her work, loyal, and trustworthy. She was particularly efficient in the difficult task of meeting a critical public and sending them away satisfied.

During the last year of his term sickness prevented his former vigorous activities, but through the kindness of his stenographer, Miss Florence M. Vallery, Mr. George W. Kemp, County Truant Officer, and Superintendent J. H. Propst, and the increased responsibilities of each superintendent of the county, who did most of the visiting of the schools for Mr. Maysilles, he was enabled to continue in office to the end of his term. His offer to resign was refused by the County Board, who showed him every courtesy and kindness during his illness.

The First Winter School of Mr. Maysilles

By S. S. Croy

The history of Montgomery County Schools would be incomplete without the story of the first school of A. A. Maysilles.

More than thirty-five years ago the writer was a pupil in District No. 3, Madison Township, better known as Air Hill School. Being deprived of a teacher by death in the middle of the term, the local board of three directors was compelled to cast about for some one to teach the balance of the term. High school graduates and normal-trained candidates were scarce in those days. Because of his possessing these desirable but rare qualifications, the local board hired A. A. Maysilles to complete the term of school.

On the day appointed for the reopening of school, we pupils assembled unusually early, perhaps out of curiosity about our new teacher. Books time arrived, but no teacher. He was to travel by train from Brookville to Air Hill. At last a short, young, boyish fellow came hustling down the road from Air Hill.

"I ain't afraid of him," said one boy.

"I kin lick him," said another.

"I forgot more'n he knows," said a third.

To our amazement, he turned at the crossroad and traveled not to, but away from, the schoolhouse to the home of a patron some distance up the road. Many years after this incident the pupils of that school learned through tradition the following reason why their new teacher was late that morning.

As the train on which our new teacher was riding neared Air Hill station, Mr. Maysilles became nervous and anxious to get off. As the train slowed down, the new teacher gathered the few books he had with him, took his lunch-box, and left the car. When he reached the platform the train had not yet stopped. Andy was so full of pep about his new job that he concluded he could not wait for the train to stop. Disregarding the warning of the conductor, he proceeded to get off. He got off, but the train was going at a more rapid rate than he had anticipated. He landed full-length on the cinder platform, with his books scattered on one side and his lunch-box, its lid and entire contents on the other. But he did not lie there very long. He got up, wiped the cinders from his torn hand, and brushed the dust from his clothes. To his astonishment, he found his trousers torn at the knees, and that he must do some mending before he went on to school. So he gathered together his belongings and started on his way. He stopped at a farmhouse and did the required mending, and again went toward the schoolhouse. In spite of his little mishap, he was full of pep when he arrived at school. Such a cheery, hearty "Good morning," greeted the pupils that they had no occasion whatever to suspect that anything unusual had happened.

District No. 3 consisted at that time of probably thirty or thirty-five ungraded scholars. They ranged in age from five to eighteen, and were in classes ranging from the chart class to philosophy, physical geography, and Ray's Higher Arithmetic. One boy the professor frequently held on his lap while reciting the A, B, C's. There must have been many more classes than pupils, because each studied one or more subjects and each advanced according to his or her ability and no two were alike.

Be it not forgotten in all these long, musty years that this short hustler boy teacher from Arlington revolutionized Air Hill School in less than a week. Instead of going to school because they had to, the boys and girls went because they liked to go. They no longer wanted to stay at home. They stopped talking and planning mischief and began studying and talking about their lessons. What a changed school, with new motives, healthy interests, and a commendable spirit. Under the guiding hand of this master of masters, interest led to industry and industry to learning. In this school, with pupils hungry and thirsty after knowledge, problems of discipline were practically unknown. From the A, B, C children to the class in higher mathematics, the pupils adored their teacher. From him they invariably received sympathy, help, guidance, and wise counsel. At this late date there are many who date their education back to the time when A. A. Maysilles taught at Air Hill, or this or that place.

MR. MAYSILLES' WORK AS A TEACHER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL

By Irma Weaver

Arlington is the center of a community, which has always desired and aimed for the higher culture.

Many of our forefathers were uneducated men, but men of wisdom, who built for future generations.

From this little community has gone forth many who have won success in life. Among these is our own beloved County Superintendent, A. A. Maysilles.

Knowing Mr. Maysilles as a successful teacher, a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction was evident when he was appointed to the superintendency of the Arlington High School.

When he assumed his position, he became not only superintendent, but teacher as well, teaching all the subjects that were fundamental of our three-year course.

He entered his work with a spirit that seemed afire; energetic, alert to every reaction, prepared to meet every emergency. If he was ever weary, he did not complain; if he thought that his salary was not commensurate with his duties, it was not told. His ideals, his ambitions, were all for the advancement of his boys and girls and the community.

I wish it were possible to portray the attitude and the work of Mr. Maysilles. He used every available opportunity for advancement.

He instituted a Literary Society, which met every second Friday evening in the school building and consisted of music, recitations, essays, orations, and debates put on mostly by the school children.

The dollar sign was never emblazoned, for the doors were opened to all who came. The building was usually filled to capacity. A disturbance was an unknown factor, for the people came for entertainment and were being at the same time unconsciously socialized.

The removal of the high school to Brookville was disconcerting, for Mr. Maysilles went with it. We did not possess his vision.

When Mr. Maysilles had planned and determined the fitness and the rightness of a project, neither politics nor money could change him. For

this reason he met and conquered more than the usual discouragements of the profession.

The beautiful school buildings throughout the Miami Valley are monuments to his labor; but to those who have studied and worked with him, far more beautiful and splendid is the structure of his life.

AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OF BROOKVILLE, OHIO
1899-1914

By Charles F. Meyer

In 1899, A. A. Maysilles became Superintendent of Schools at Brookville, where a few years before he had been graduated in the first high school class. The fifteen years of his service here were marked by steady growth in school population, buildings, and equipment. The high school in particular attracted many young men and women from a considerable distance because of the inspiring leadership of the superintendent and teachers and because the village, being a center of population, was able to furnish better school facilities than other near-by localities.

Literary contests and debates aroused much interest among pupils and patrons. The high school was raised from grade three to grade one. The entire school system came to command the confidence and respect of the people in a way that is lacking in many localities. It is fair to say that almost universally friends and foes alike believed thoroughly in Mr. Maysilles' ability and sincerity as a schoolman.

The affection in which the many students who attended the Brookville schools held Mr. Maysilles is witness to the close personal touch and the genuine helpfulness which characterized his work. His own oft-repeated regret in later years that the duties of the county office deprived him in large measure of being directly helpful to the schoolboys and girls is further evidence of his deep concern for the welfare of the young people. The supreme loyalty and frindship of the men and women who worked with him as teachers in the Brookville schools are testimony to his fairness, diplomacy, and good judgment as a superintendent and a fellow teacher. Among these are C. D. Newsock, Nellie Somers Newsock, Willard H. Riley, S. Aldine Propst, Daisy Smith, Nelle Voorhees, Bess L. Detwiler, Mildred Mikesell, Sylvia Carroll, Emily E. Little, Elizabeth Zehring Weaver, Charles F. Meyer, C. C. Newsock, Edith M. Cox, Margaret Miller, Gertrude Meyer, Reuben Boomershine, John E. Fox, and Ruth Baker. The kindly regard in which Mr. Maysilles holds these teachers manifests his spirit of appreciation for their loyalty to him and to the common cause of American Education.

An outstanding instance of this co-operation is the very able and most helpful assistance rendered by Mr. C. D. Newsock, which Mr. Maysilles often mentions in connection with his early days at Brookville.

Members of the Board of Education who served the Brookville schools during Mr. Maysilles' term are as follows: D. C. Williamson, J. P. Cloppert, Valentine Wellbaum, W. R. Sanford, H. R. Finfrock, C. L. Weaver, James C. Small, A. E. Hamiel, J. P. Seybold, W. H. Wellbaum, E. M. Smith, Richard Cox, A. M. Tucker, A. F. Horner, H. E. Shank, Isaac Brumbaugh, and Herman S. Fox.

The real worth to the community of the board member's service is not usually understood, hence it nearly always passes with little or no appreciation. It is a most regrettable fact that men who have given services in this capacity have often suffered actual financial loss and much unmerited mental anguish through the unkind criticisms and unjust charges of a too often ungrateful public which is inclined to speak its mind at once and think afterward.

Among the graduates of the Brookville High School during Mr. Maysilles' term as Superintendent are men and women of prominence in various professions and occupations. Of these several are preachers and ministers: Osa D. Wellbaum, Ira D. Warner, Ralph M. Fox, Stanley C. Wenger, Reuben Boomershine, W. L. Mattis, Ohmer Maphis, Edo Burris, Freda M. Rasor.

Any honest man will admit (first) that no man's life is perfect and that no man's work is without flaw; (second) that every one of us, if we are of any worth in the sight of God or man, is climbing toward better things. Those in charge of our schools ought to be men and women first and teachers afterward. The teacher I would choose for my boy or girl is the one who is now fighting life's battles and winning them in the name of God, hard work, and common sense. The American schoolroom is no place for the man or woman who has been shielded from toil, poverty, and the temptations which beset our common lot. Our teachers must be made of sterner stuff. They must be able to lead our youth to victory over the evil within and the enemy without. They should by all means be good; but they must be good for something.

It is hard for us in 1926 to rate correctly the problems which beset the schools of a village like Brookville twenty-seven years ago. Nearly every problem that we have today was present then and in addition the saloon open to young and old. Now, whatever our opinion of "Volstead" maybe, where is the father or mother who would not protest if boys came to school intoxicated and if every school party were a liquor party? Yet, such things were common in those days. And responsibility for the welfare of their boys and girls in such surroundings made better men and women of the teachers. They joined hands with the churches. Those who drank came to avoid drink themselves. They taught the consequences of drink. They took up the cause of a cleaner and better America.

Brookville in 1899—much like any other town of its size—had its school, its boys and girls, and its booze. It had a superintendent and teaching force who faced their responsibilities with a sincere purpose. The school could never do its best for the town while booze was there. Booze had to go. The teachers, and particularly the superintendent, did their full share in this crusade. For this they have been praised and they have been abused. Perhaps the fullest reward that could come to them lies in their own consciousness of duty well and unselfishly performed and in the lives of men and women made better by their work.

I am led therefore to the conclusion that A. A. Maysilles believed that his duties as superintendent of schools at Brookville extended beyond the mere management of the school in the narrower sense. He seems to have felt that the school had moral obligations to the community also. In my

association with Mr. Maysilles at Brookville I was again and again impressed by his concern for the conduct and habits of our pupils, both in school and out.

He worked for a school that was a superior place to get an education, for a school that led its pupils to lofty purpose and noble conduct for a school that improved the moral tone of the community. He tried to make the school such a place as the community ought to be.

MR. MAYSILLES AS NORMAL INSTRUCTOR

By Olney Weaver

If it is an honor to be a teacher, to be the molder of the very life-character of the youth, to inculcate in the youth the desire for those habits which he should form, to aid him in the choice of ideals and the selection of proper trait actions for the development of those ideals, surely if this be a great task and honor fit only for great men, what then should we expect of the teacher of teachers?

Mr. Maysilles, in his work at the Brookville Normal School, was truly a master teacher, for he devoted his all to his teaching, for his work was filled with enthusiasm, inspiration, and high ambition which dignified the commonplace subject matter until it was transformed into useful material for purposeful living. His professional work in the normal school was further characterized by exceptional mental, physical, and spiritual vigor, which was accompanied by untiring willingness in encouraging and helping his pupils as long as anyone was desirous of an explanation. No problem was ever too difficult for him to tackle, no detail was ever too small for his consideration, and best of all, no pupil desirous of knowledge, no matter how backward, was ever turned away without help.

After his pupils left the normal school, many of them taught in the schools under his supervision, where he continued to give them needed help and guidance, all of which only shows his feeling of obligation to his pupils, together with a magnanimous spirit of helpfulness.

It would indeed be a platitude to further eulogize the accomplishments of Mr. Maysilles in his teacher-training activities, for his work and influence, both directly and indirectly, possess far-reaching results which will live longer in the lives and hearts of men than anything that can be said here.

As graduates of the Brookville Normal School, it is our earnest prayer and desire that Mr. Maysilles have improved health and the blessings of happiness together with long life.

MR. MAYSILLES AS AN ORATOR AND DEBATER

By C. W. Plessinger

Mr. Maysilles' life, moderate in length when compared with the span of existence of other leaders in various fields of endeavor, has been filled to overflowing with hours and days and weeks and months and years of devotion to the arts of the public speaker and debater. His speaking and debating life covers a period of approximately forty years, during which time hundreds and hundreds of addresses have been delivered from church pulpits, commencement platforms, and in political campaigns.

I have sat, scores of times, as an auditor of Mr. Maysilles. I can say from personal knowledge that Mr. Maysilles seldom found it necessary to resort to the story, either to illustrate his point or to entertain. Blessed with a magnetic voice and presence, and equipped with a mentality that instantly summed up a problem from every angle, Mr. Maysilles was able to hold his audience spellbound by his sheer oratorical power, and by the logic of his speech.

The dramatic moment in the oration of Mr. Maysilles did not always come at the close of his address; but more often in the middle of his oration, or when he was one-third or two-thirds finished. These occasions and moments were always anticipated and looked for by those of us who were accustomed to his manner of speech. And we were never disappointed.

Mr. Maysilles' enthusiasm was vigorous and unbounded; his convictions were sincere; his tendency was to get at the heart of the matter; his ideas were always clarified by the keenness and incisiveness of his speech; and his expressions were forcefully driven home. He so believed in his subject that he swept all before him. His language was couched in the words of the common people, language that his hearers had no difficulty in understanding.

As a debater, Mr. Maysilles was always ready to drive or travel any distance in order to measure strength with the other fellow. Frequently these debates were in the interest of obtaining funds for worthy causes; sometimes they were for the purpose of consummating educational ideals; sometimes they were engaged in for the purpose of putting down dangerous political doctrines; sometimes they were in the interest of upholding the church and the Holy Bible; frequently his voice was raised in the cause of temperance, and at a time when it took men of courage and faith to combat the open American saloon.

Mr. Maysilles was able to talk off-hand, or without a great deal of preparation, on all the subjects of the day. His life as an educator was so filled with the labors incidental to the welfare of children, that he was frequently obliged to speak extemporaneously.

In all of Mr. Maysilles' orations and debates he exhibited a fine sense of humor and a high type of sportsmanship. I have seen him chuckle with delight when an opponent found a weak spot in his argument. He recognized merit where merit was to be found. In his debates and addresses if the crowd wasn't with him at the close, it was only because it was prejudiced against him and his ideals at the outset.

The thousands of friends and admirers of Mr. Maysilles look upon him as the ablest extemporaneous speaker and debater in this section of the country. Time and again, in both Ohio and Indiana, his voice and logic have struck terror into the heart of flimsy or dangerous doctrines, touching the social, political, and religious life of America.

He was both feared and respected wherever he spoke—feared by the individual who dared voice sentiments and theories abnormal to American life—and respected by friend and foe alike.

HON. JAMES M. COX

Montgomery County gave to Ohio Hon. James M. Cox for Governor. He, in turn, in conjunction with the Eightieth General Assembly, gave to Ohio the Cox School Code, approved by him, February 17, 1914.

As a pupil and a teacher in the rural schools of Butler County, where he was born and reared, he observed the weaknesses of Ohio's school system.

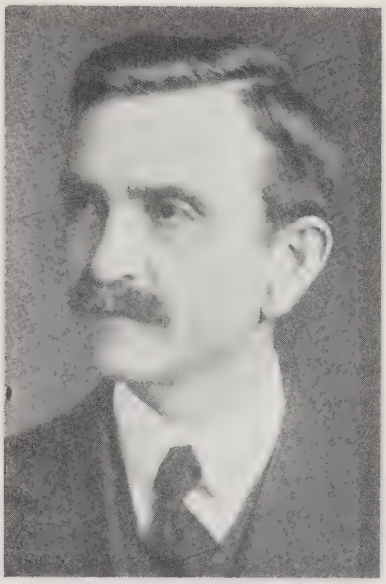
When he became Governor, he authorized and directed a survey of the schools of the State, which exposed shocking conditions in many places. It established, beyond question, that the educational facilities for the youth of Ohio were woefully inadequate.

A school code was framed, built around the idea of compulsory county supervision, and was submitted to a popular Congress, called by the Governor to meet in Columbus, Ohio. It was the greatest educational meeting, measured by results, ever held in the State.

In this Congress, Mr. A. A. Maysilles, then superintendent of the village schools of Brookville, was a delegate and took a leading part. He had followed closely the formation of the code and at Dayton, Ohio, sought to have it changed so as to protect supervision already provided in every

The Three Superintendents of Public Instruction, Now Known as Directors of Education, Under Whom Superintendent Maysilles Served

F. B. PIERSON



FRANK W. MILLER

VERNON M. RIEGEL

important school district of Montgomery County, of a much closer type than that provided by county supervision alone. In this he failed and carried his contest to the Educational Congress.

Here he was made the spokesman of six hundred delegates, who in a separate meeting requested that he be given fifteen minutes before the Congress. The request being granted, Mr. Maysilles showed how several parts of the State, especially Montgomery County, already had better supervision than county supervision alone could possibly give; that the proposed code would give to Montgomery County one superintendent with over three hundred teachers, instead of the fourteen superintendents, teaching part time, already in charge; that if the pioneers in supervision were to be ignored and were to receive a less adequate kind of supervision than that already enjoyed, then those whom he represented would oppose endorsement of the Code by the Congress and its adoption by the General Assembly.

The demonstration following the speech of Mr. Maysilles indicated that the Congress was in sympathy with his statements.

Governor Cox then addressed the Congress, stating that the formation of the Code had been left to educational experts; that he did not know that it threatened supervision where it already existed as in Montgomery County, and forcefully and courageously stated that if the Code came to him from the General Assembly taking away from the people the right to supervision where and as already established, he would veto the measure.

Those in charge of the Code in a hurried conference assured Mr. Maysilles that the Code would be so modified that in sections of the State where supervision was already provided, it might be continued if the people so desired and asked him, with that promise, to second the motion, that the Congress endorse the proposed Code, which he did. The Code was then endorsed by the Congress.

This assurance was carried out by writing into the Code, Section 4740, which now gives to every village and wholly centralized school district the right to have its own superintendent.

Whatever public service Mr. Cox may have rendered as editor, Congressman, Governor, or candidate for President, none will surpass the service rendered to the rural and village school children of Ohio in pressing for the passage of the School Code of 1914.

As soon as the Code was passed, Mr. Maysilles became an applicant for the position of County Superintendent. Armed with the recommendations from the fourteen superintendents of the county, he visited all of the boards of education and prepared the way for the election of a county board.

Upon his solicitation, Messrs. Herman A. Fox, of Brookville; Joseph E. Seigel, of German Township; Henry C. Ryder, of Butler Township; J. W. Smith, of Belmont, and George O'Brien, of Randolph Township, were unanimously elected the first County Board of Education.

The Board held its first meeting in the old Phillips House, of Dayton, Ohio, and organized by electing Herman S. Fox, president, and George O'Brien, vice-president.

This organization remained intact until October 19, 1918, when the resignation of Mr. George O'Brien, who was leaving the county, was accepted, Mr. J. W. Smith becoming vice-president.

On March 15, 1919, the resignation of Mr. Henry C. Ryder, and on December 20, 1923, the resignation of J. W. Smith were accepted, both resignations due to removals from the county.

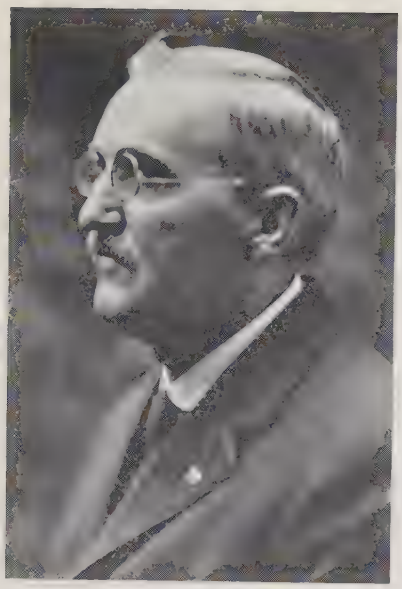
On March 15, 1919, Mr. Chas. A. Eicher was appointed to take the place of Mr. Ryder and on October 28, 1919, Mr. George W. Kemp was appointed in place of Mr. O'Brien.

On August 19, 1921, Geo. W. Kemp offered his resignation as a member of the County Board, which was accepted, and on August 31, 1921, Mr. Kemp was elected County Attendance Officer, which position he is still holding.

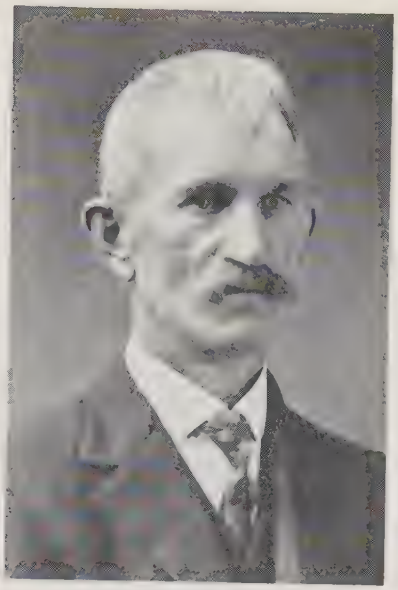
November 8, 1921, was the date upon which three members were to be elected by popular vote, due to a change in the law.

The opponents of Mr. Maysilles put three candidates in the field. The opposition was composed of some "wets," a few who objected to Mr. Maysilles' political activities, those who opposed centralization of schools, those

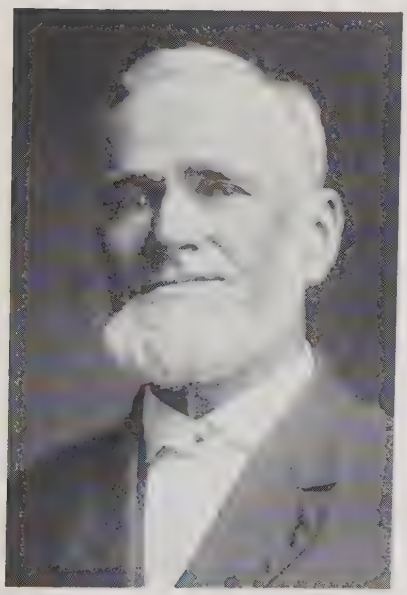
Men Who Have Served on the County Board of Education



HERMAN S. FOX



JOSEPH E. SEIGEL



HENRY C. RYDER

GEO. O'BRIEN

Men Who Have Served on the County Board of Education

J. W. SMITH

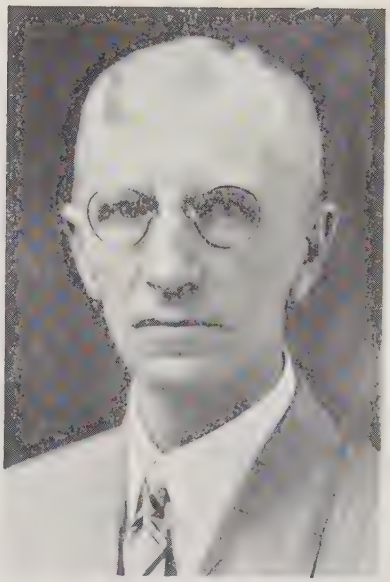
ELMER L. FLORY

GEO. W. KEMP

CHAS. A. EICHER

Men Who Have Served on the County Board of Education

G. M. HITTLE



DAWES T. BENNERT

CHARLES SPRAGUE

E. M. HEISEY

opposed to county supervision as useless, and those who always become opponents of a successful man in any community.

These various groups made common cause in clandestine meetings, where their organization was completed. They conducted a speaking campaign, hired a band, and distributed literature.

The loyal support of the superintendents, the teachers, and all progressive friends of education buried the opponents under an avalanche of ballots in favor of the candidates favorable to Mr. Maysilles. These candidates were Herman S. Fox, of Brookville, Joseph E. Seigel, of German Township, and Dawes T. Bennert, of Butler Township. Mr. Bennert, County Board member elect, was appointed November 23, 1921, to take Mr. Kemp's place.

On December 20, 1922, Elmer L. Flory, of Harrison Township, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. W. Smith, who had moved to California.

January 20, 1923, the date of reorganization, Herman S. Fox, who had served as president of the Board since 1914, refused to hold this position longer and Chas. A. Eicher was elected president, which position he still holds.

Mr. Seigel was elected vice-president, which he held until the date of his death.

In November, 1923, Chas. A. Eicher and Elmer L. Flory were elected for four years, with three candidates in the field. Mr. Flory moved to Florida and his resignation was filed June 4, 1925. Mr. Seigel died May, 1925. In honor of him, no one was appointed to take his place. On July 15, 1925, G. W. Hittle, of Harrison Township, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Flory.

In November, 1925, Herman S. Fox, Dawes T. Bennert, and Charles Sprague of West Carrollton were elected for a term of four years each, without opposition.

On January 2, 1926, Herman S. Fox died, before qualifying for the last term for which he had been elected.

On February 17, 1926, E. M. Heisey was appointed from the Jackson Township-Farmersville District.

Thus twelve men—Fox, Seigel, Ryder, Smith, O'Brien, Kemp, Eicher, Bennert, Flory, Hittle, Sprague, and Heisey—have served on the Board of Education of Montgomery County, Ohio.

Two of them have been removed by death, Messrs. Fox and Seigel; four of them, Messrs. O'Brien, Ryder, Smith, and Flory, have moved from the county; one, Mr. Kemp, resigned to become County Attendance Officer, and Messrs. Eicher, Bennert, Hittle, Sprague, and Heisey constitute the present Board.

Mr. Eicher will lose membership September 1, 1926, when Miamisburg, where he resides, becomes an exempted district.

The first qualification of all these men has been good character. The second has been their known support of the best schools possible to get with the money available.

They have served together agreeably and it is noteworthy and a tribute to the leadership of Mr. Maysilles and to the thoroughness of his work, that

there was but one divided vote on matters of importance during his presence in the term of twelve years. He began, in 1914, with a unanimous board and closed his services, July 31, 1926, with a unanimous board, sustaining that relationship for the entire term.

When the administration of Mr. Maysilles and the first board began, there were one hundred seven one-room schools, not one modern, up-to-date school building, and not one centralized school district in the whole county. There were thirty-one school districts; seven thousand seventy-three (7,073) elementary pupils; eight hundred seventy-nine (879) high school pupils; twelve first-grade high schools; aggregate days of attendance, one million one hundred sixty-five thousand, seven hundred sixty-five (1,165,765).

In 1926 there were only twenty-five school districts; nineteen (19) one-room schools; five (5) two-room schools; modern new school buildings in Phillipsburg, Brookville, Johnsville-New Lebanon, Jackson Township-Farmersville, West Carrollton, Miamisburg, Germantown, Madison Township, Clayton Consolidated, Randolph Township, Butler Township; four in Harrison Township, four in Mad River Township, three in Van Buren Township, two in Oakwood, Wayne Township, Washington Township, bond issue for one in Ebenezer, and one in Van Buren Township at Belmont, and a total of twenty-nine new school buildings, twenty-seven erected and two in process of building. An increase of pupils is shown.

With the enrollment as follows: Elementary pupils, eleven thousand and three hundred eighty-nine (11,389); high school pupils, two thousand and four hundred twenty-nine (2,429). Total pupils, fourteen thousand, two hundred sixty-eight (14,268). Sixteen high schools, all of the first grade. Aggregate days of attendance nearly two million (2,000,000), which showing is due in part to the efficiency of our County Attendance Officer, George W. Kemp. Two hundred ninety-four (294) teachers in 1914 had grown to four hundred twenty-four (424) in 1926.

The administration of Mr. Maysilles was marked by many progressive school changes. He knew the need of the county, believed thoroughly in centralization, knew that his county had the wealth with which to give proper educational facilities to its children, had the courage of his convictions, and, in the face of bitter opposition sometimes, he led in breaking up old school districts, enlarging others, and creating new ones where tax duplicates would warrant such moves. In these movements he had the active and fearless support of every superintendent and every County Board member serving with him, or the revolutionary changes could never have been accomplished.

As the result of this policy, one hundred seven (107) one-room schools were reduced to nineteen (19); thirty-five (35) two-room schools were reduced to five (5), and every school district in Montgomery County which needed it was centralized, transporting its pupils, or in the process of arranging for it, except the school districts in German Township, Chautauqua Special, which was transferred to Warren County, and Jefferson Township. Jefferson Township votes in November of 1926 on a bond issue for the centralization or consolidation of its schools.

Mr. Maysilles' administration began with only one new building in the whole county, which was the Auditorium School Building in Miamisburg,

occupied by the grades. During his administration of twelve years, a total of thirty (30) new school buildings were erected at a cost of something like five million dollars ($5,000,000).

Two new districts, Clayton Consolidated and Ebenezer, were formed, large parts of Clay Township, Randolph Township, smaller parts of Darke and Miami Counties were given to the Phillipsburg School District. The upper part of Perry Township, the lower part of Clay Township, the Brookville and Stine Special Districts, with smaller portions of Randolph and Madison Townships were given to the Brookville Village School District.

The lower half of Perry Township and the upper part of Jackson Township, including the villages of Johnsville and New Lebanon, were formed into the Johnsville-New Lebanon School District.

Farmersville Village and Jackson Township School Districts were united into the Jackson Township-Farmersville School District. Vandalia Village School District was abandoned, becoming a part of the Butler Township School District. Belmont Special was transferred to Van Buren Township. The upper part of Miami Township was joined to West Carrollton and the lower part was transferred to Miamisburg Village School District. Sunsbury Special was transferred to the Germantown Village School District. The National Military Home was transferred from Jefferson Township to Madison Township and later to the City of Dayton School District. The northwest corner of Clay Township was transferred to Verona School District of Preble County. Several parts of Harrison Township were transferred to the City of Dayton. Various other smaller transfers were made in line with the policy that the schools exist for the education of the children and not to continue simple sentiment, built up by long-established boundary lines. A number of these changes caused bitter resentment upon the part of some and were attacked in court. It is a tribute to the judgment of the County Board that, in not a single case was its action overthrown by the courts.

Washington Township was the first township in Montgomery County to vote upon centralization, several years before the County System was inaugurated. Superintendent D. A. Puderbaugh led in this fight and received as his reward for his activity the loss of his position, but he was getting ready for the contests which he led in the formation of the Brookville School District and the new buildings, one at Brookville, one started at Phillipsburg, finished by Superintendent Helwig, who also built the Johnsville-New Lebanon building, one in Randolph Township, one in Butler Township, one at Clayton, and three in Van Buren Township. Wayne Township has the honor of being the first centralized school district in Montgomery County.

A. A. MAYSILLES AS A CHRISTIAN

By Rev. W. T. Frank

Having known Prof. A. A. Maysilles for almost half of my natural lifetime, I take great pleasure in the privilege of speaking of his activities in religious and beneficent circles.

He has been an outstanding character as a Christian gentleman, churchman, and true-blue professed Christian.

After having experienced a genuine change of heart during an evangelistic meeting, in which he became interested in and convicted of his

unsatisfactory soul condition, he united with the United Brethren in Christ Church of Brookville, Ohio, under the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Flory.

From the date of his religious profession, he maintained a changed attitude toward the things he once loved and practiced and stood firm, unashamed, and unmoved under all circumstances for all things that were for the betterment of mankind and the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God.

His unusual natural ability, together with his untiring effort for knowledge and enlightenment, soon brought him into prominence as an educator, orator, and business man, and into demand in many lines of important church activity.

He served with capability as superintendent of his home Sunday-school. Later he made himself known and appreciated far and wide as an unusually successful teacher of a men's Sunday-school class, and in that capacity conducted many successful class contests.

He was elected and served very capably four times in succession in the sessions of the General Conference of his denomination, the highest law-making body of the church.

He served also for a number of years on some of the most prominent boards of his church, namely—The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the United Brethren Publishing House; the Board of Education; the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Bonebrake Seminary. In the last-named position he helped to completion the magnificent buildings of the Bonebrake Seminary of Dayton, Ohio.

On many important conference and church committees he served in his usual earnest and capable manner.

After moving to Dayton he united with the Oak Street Church, of which he is a highly appreciated and a faithful member. Until a recent date, when failing health compelled him to retire from active church work, he has been the teacher and inspiration, in his own church, of one of the largest men's classes in the city.

JAMES H. PROPST

Assistant County Supts. Who Served With Supt. Maysilles

HARRIS V. BEAR

Assistant County Superintendents Who Served With Superintendent Maysilles

D. A. PUDERBAUGH

F. M. STAVER

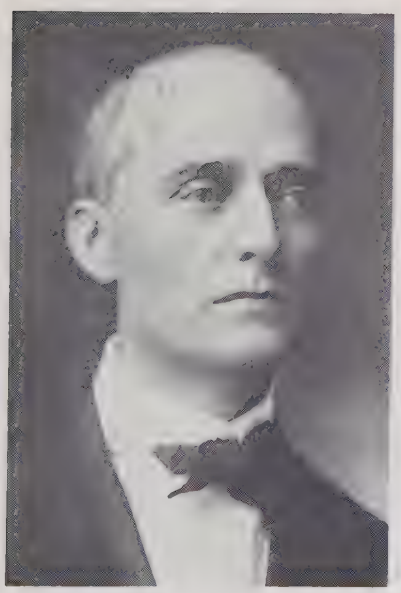
W. H. VANDERVERE

WM. W. HELWIG

Other Superintendents Who Served With Superintendent Maysilles

ADDA POTTER NUTT

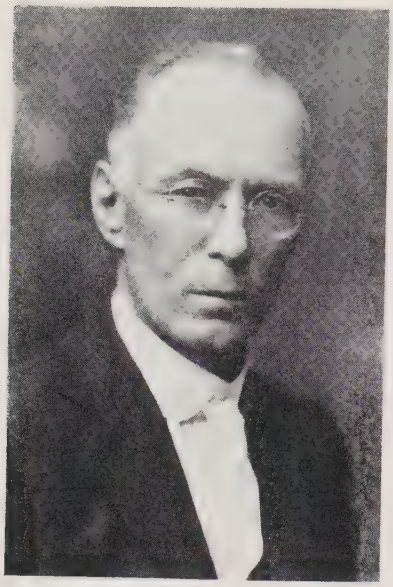
CHARLES F. MEYER



U. E. ERBAUGH

JOHN E. FOX

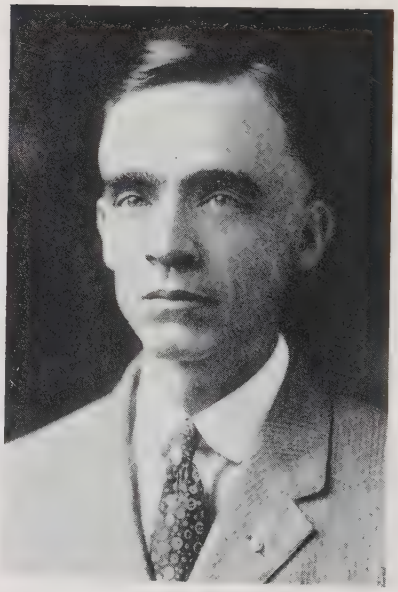
Other Superintendents Who Served With Superintendent Maysilles



JOHN E. SMITH

A. E. CLAGETT

CHESTER JOHNSTON



WM. MEYER

Other Superintendents Who Served With Superintendent Maysilles

C. W. PLESSINGER

OLNEY S. WEAVER

ELMER G. BEESON

HERMAN E. MICHAEL

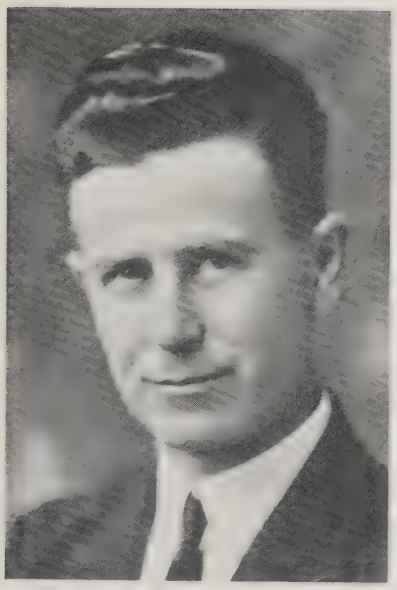
Other Superintendents Who Served With Superintendent Maysilles

CHARLES CAREY

RAY WAGNER

H. A. MATHENY

ELMORE PERRY



Dr. H. H. Pansing

Born in Montgomery County and educated in the schools of Clay Township, Montgomery County, and Harrison Township High School, Preble County. Taught two years in Clay Township. Graduated from Medical College in 1905. Practiced in Phillipsburg for fourteen years. Served two terms on Board of Education and was president during construction of new building. Became Health Commissioner in 1920.

Montgomery County District Board of Health

By Dr. H. H. Pansing, Health Commissioner

Before the Hughes Health Law (Section 1261-16 to 1261-43 General Code inclusive) was passed April 17, 1919, and certain sections amended by the Griswold Act on December 19, 1919, each township and village in the State was having one or more so-called health officers, who served as called upon, principally, to abate small nuisances and to placard homes whenever a contagious disease was reported by a physician.

According to the Hughes-Griswold Law, this was entirely changed, and each city is now referred to as a city health district, and the combination of the various townships and villages in the district shall be known and hereinafter referred to as a general health district.

There may be a union of two general health districts, or a union of a general health district and a city health district. The board of health in a general health district shall now be known as the "district board of health," and consists of five members, of which one must be a physician. These members are elected by an Advisory Council composed of the mayors of the various municipalities and the presidents of the boards of trustees of the various townships, one member being elected each year for a period of five years.

The district board of health appoints a district health commissioner, who must be a physician and for a period of not longer than two years. Notice of such appointment shall be filed with the State Director of Health. The district health commissioner shall be the executive officer of the district board of health, and shall carry out all orders of the district board of health, and of the state department of health. He is charged with the enforcement of all sanitary laws and regulations in the district, and shall have within the general health district all the powers now conferred by law upon health officers of municipalities.

In addition to the duties then required by boards of health, it shall be the duty of each board of health to study and record the prevalence of disease within its district, and provide for the prompt diagnosis and control of communicable diseases. It may provide for the medical and dental supervision of school children, for the inspection of schools, public institutions, jails, workhouses, children's homes, infirmaries, and other charitable, correctional, benevolent institutions. It may also provide for the inspection of dairies, stores, restaurants, hotels, and other places where food is manufactured, handled, stored, sold, or offered for sale, and for the medical inspection of persons employed therein. It may also provide for the inspection and abatement of nuisances dangerous to public health or comfort, and may take such steps as are necessary to protect the public health and prevent disease.

Much of our work done in this county has been directed toward school activities. It has been our desire to see that all children be given a physical examination, and that the defects, if found, be corrected. It has been found that the number of defects in school children will average about one defect to each child examined. However, one child may be found with two or more defects.

No child is given any medical or surgical attention without the written consent of the parents. A nurse visits the home and parents are given instruction, and the child is referred to the family physician or their dentist. In many cases we have had, 30 percent, and in one case 49 percent, of all defects pointed out in the examination were corrected. This gives each child an equal chance in school, where otherwise he would be greatly handicapped by their defects.

Many days of absence have been eliminated by the control of communicable diseases by the medical supervision of school children. Many so-called slow children have become interested pupils by the finding of defects and having them corrected. No child with bad vision, bad hearing, or any defect which keeps him away from school, and also predisposes him to all contagious diseases, can have an equal chance with the normal pupil.

In our work we are also paying more attention to the pre-school child, and the immunization against contagious diseases, and to the teaching of the older girls especially, so they might be interested more in health work and apply this in their homes to their small brothers and sisters, since we recognize the success in health work depends much upon the education of our youth.

In co-operation with the State Department of Health, the health-mobile visited each school in the county, and by the use of films tried to impress the value of proper health habits. In this way about 11,000 children were reached. We wish to say that a great deal of our success in the work done in the schools and our health program in general, has been due to the excellent co-operation that we have received through the County School Superintendent, the District Superintendent, and all the teachers in the schools of the county. It is our hope that each year our program may be broadened and our work may be more valuable.

The Prosecuting Attorney and His Relationship to the County School System

By Albert H. Scharrer, Prosecuting Attorney

Ralph E. Hoskot has charge of the Civil Department of the Prosecutor's office. Mr. Hoskot was born in Dayton in 1883, graduated from Steele High School and later from Cornell University with the degree of L. L. B. He served under Haveth E. Mau, taking office immediately after the death of Wm. Marshall, in 1919. He continued to serve during both terms of Mr. Scharrer.

The prevailing idea of the general public is that the Prosecuting Attorney's sole duty toward the community is to prosecute those persons accused of committing some crime against society, but this is only a small part of his everyday routine. The name Prosecuting Attorney, in Ohio, is really a misnomer. A more fitting name would be District or County Attorney, which is the name used for such office in most of the States of the Union, for the reason that he is not only Prosecutor of criminal cases, but must be widely experienced in civil law, being the legal advisor for all public officials outside of municipalities in the intricate problems of taxation, financing, etc., and representing them as well in all litigation. One of the many duties delegated to the Prosecuting Attorney's office, under the statutes, is to act as legal advisor and represent the county, rural, and village boards of education in all litigation in which they may become involved. The performance of this work for the past seven years has been the particular duty of Mr. Ralph E. Hoskot, who, as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney under Mr. Albert Scharrer, has been the legal advisor of the county school system.

During the time that Mr. Hoskot has been County School Advisor, a great change has taken place in the schools of Montgomery County. The small school building of one and two rooms has passed into oblivion and in its place we find today a modern, fireproof school building with accommodations for each grade separately that serves as a community center for the citizens of the district and is a credit to the community. After many years of archaic educational methods in the rural communities, within a brief period of approximately eight years, the country school has been placed on a par with the metropolitan city schools. With the passing away of the little one-and-two-room schoolhouse have come more efficient and modern

methods of instruction and education and the child residing in the rural community has an equal educational opportunity with the child in the city. Naturally, these changes, like all modern improvements and ideas, have not come about without objection, but in each instance where centralization or consolidation has become effective, the problems arising have been ultimately happily solved through the untiring efforts of Mr. Hoskot, and the schools have been ultimately located where they would do the greatest good for the greatest number. After the question of centralization has been settled, it is Mr. Hoskot's duty to lead the Board through all the intricate details of procedure relative to holding elections, financing and issuing of bonds, condemnation of property, letting of bids, and entering into contracts.

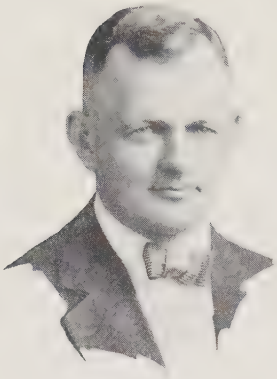
In addition to centralization, many other school problems of equally great importance have been solved through Mr. Hoskot's efforts, chief among these being the question of the financing of many of the school districts. Until recently, if the schools did not have sufficient money to pay their current operating expenses, they would proceed without the money and when the indebtedness became due would issue bonds covering a long period of time to meet the same. Under such a method the inevitable day of reckoning was simply delayed and the Legislature repealed this law so that boards could not borrow money to extend the time of payment of any indebtedness, and later they took an even more drastic step and passed an act to prevent school boards borrowing money in excess of the amount they would receive during the school year, and this amount so borrowed would have to be paid during the school year. In this way the schools had to live within the current revenue and could not continually pile up an increased indebtedness for future generations to pay for current operating expenses. The Legislature, however, at the time it passed this law, failed to provide any method for meeting the existing indebtedness of the various school districts, and after adjournment of the Legislature it was found that many of the schools would soon be in a distressed condition, that they would not have sufficient money to pay their current operating expenses and would thereby be compelled to close. Some immediate step had to be taken to keep the schools open and raise sufficient money for the payment of teachers, many of whom had been working without receiving their pay when due. It was then that Mr. Hoskot proposed a friendly suit in mandamus against Mr. Maysilles as County Superintendent, to which Mr. Maysilles agreed, to be tried in the Supreme Court of the State, to test the question as to how the Boards of Education might raise sufficient funds to continue operation. The particular question raised by Mr. Hoskot was that the Board of County Commissioners could advance to the County School Board sufficient money to keep these weakened school districts in operation. Similar cases came to the Supreme Court suggesting various methods from other counties. These cases were all combined by the Supreme Court and the question raised by Mr. Hoskot was the only one sustained by the Court for the defendants. The decision of the Court in these cases enabled these weakened school districts throughout the State to again open their doors and pay their teachers and thereby relieve a condition that might have become embarrassing to the entire State of Ohio.

Later on the question of obtaining State aid arose in certain school

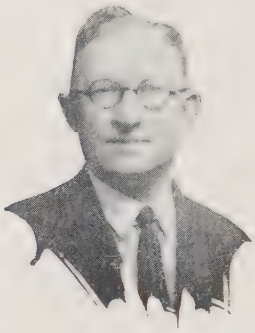
districts in the county that had asked for a sufficient amount from the Budget Commission, as required before State aid could be granted, but was not given by the Budget Commission, upon the advice of Mr. Hoskot, as its legal advisor, by reason of the limitations of taxation. Mr. Hoskot contended that these districts should be given State aid as long as they asked for the amount of mileage required by law, even though the Budget Commission, by reason of the tax limitation, could not give them the amount required to obtain State aid, Mr. Hoskot contending it was through no fault of the Boards of Education that they did not receive State aid. In these particular cases arising in the county, Mr. Hoskot finally succeeded in having the Director of Education of the State allow these weakened school districts the State aid they sought, and in that way several of the school districts were enabled to pay their teachers and current operating expenses and continue until the close of the school year.

Thus it may be seen how closely the Prosecuting Attorney's office is allied with the school system of the county and how a competent, experienced man, familiar with the school and tax laws, such as Mr. Hoskot is, can save those schools from financial distress and avoid a condition that might become chaotic in the community. During the term Mr. Hoskot has served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, under Mr. Mau and Mr. Scharrer, he has worked in complete harmony and co-operated in every way with the various boards of education of the county and their superintendents, the result of which has been modern school buildings with modern educational methods, and the providing of a method to keep the school boards within their annual income. These have been the two most important forward steps in the school system of Ohio since its inception and have been a turning point in more modern educational methods in Montgomery County. While Mr. Hoskot, as legal advisor of the County Budget Commission, has at all times been insistent upon economy of administration and in keeping down the rate of taxes so that it would not be any greater burden upon the taxpayer, at the same time he has ably and efficiently guided the boards of education out of their financial dilemmas, resulting in the school system of Montgomery County, with its modern school buildings and educational methods, being one of the best in the country. Great credit is, therefore, due Mr. Hoskot for the able and efficient assistance and co-operation he has given the boards of Montgomery County in making these much needed changes.

Montgomery County Commissioners



H. A. SHANK
Served from September, 1919, to January, 1923.



S. A. MOSBY
His first term of service commenced in 1919.
His present term expires January, 1929.

JOHN J. BAKER
His first term of service commenced September, 1919. His present term expires January, 1929.

J. MASON PRUGH
Became Commissioner in January, 1923.
His term expires January, 1927.

Montgomery County Commissioners have shown a deep interest in the county schools. The first three named above found the County Superintendent in very poor quarters and had the good sense and judgment to give Mr. Maysilles offices in keeping with the dignity and importance of the office which he held.

The last three named above pledged the financial resources of the county to keep the schools going when they would have had to close for the lack of funds, without the loss of one dollar to the county.

Athletics in Montgomery County

By Walter Shade

Athletics in our county has followed in step with the upward trend of educational advancement enjoyed during the past few years. Schools have taken a higher conception of athletics than ever before. Standards required to participate in athletics have been raised. No longer is the poor student allowed to represent his school on an athletic team in Montgomery County. Practically every school in the county has at this writing become a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and adheres strictly to its rules and regulations. The athletic program for our high school lacks little to be desired. Perhaps more should be done for the boys and girls in the grades. Certainly the play activity should be emphasized with the younger group and especially the idea of group play.

In this article we shall aim to cover a few of the high points in athletics during the past eight or ten years in our county.

One of the first attempts at county athletic activity was in the form of May Day or Play Day at the County Fairgrounds. At these occasions all the boys and girls came to the Fairgrounds for a day of recreation and fun. On several instances the Play Day was preceded by a parade from the Monument to the Fairgrounds. After arriving, the boys and girls of all sizes were kept busy participating in various track and field events, such as running, baseball throw, jumping, vaulting, etc. Here the boys and girls were classed as high school and grades and by weight in each group. The boys and girls annually looked forward to this event with much pleasure. However, such a Play Day became so large in proportions that it became almost impossible to manage, so during the last few years this annual event has been discontinued.

One other branch of sport has developed within our county to take the place of Play Day and that is basket ball. With the erection of new buildings for most of the high schools, gymnasiums included, great impetus has been added to basket ball. At the present writing fifteen high schools have gymnasiums in which to carry on basket ball. Most schools have both boys' and girls' teams. Each spring there is held at the County Fairgrounds a basket ball tournament, to decide the teams that are to represent Montgomery County in the Regional.

The first Montgomery County Basket Ball Tournament for Montgomery County was held in February of 1922 at the Wayne Ave. Market House. At this tournament Fairview High School defeated Butler for county championship. The following year a new plan was devised. The county was divided into two secions, a southern and northern division. In the northern division at Butler Gymnasium, Fairview came out victorious, while Miamisburg was successful in the southern. When Fairview and Miamisburg met in Dayton, Miamisburg won the County Championship for the first time.

In February, 1924, Miamisburg was again successful in winning the county championship over Fairview. This year was the first in which the State System of tournament play was started. Both Miamisburg and Fairview represented Montgomery County in this district. Fairview, after a wonderful exhibition, was able to win the district championship and played in Columbus for State honors.

Miamisburg Basket Ball Team, County Champions in 1925 and again in 1926.

February, 1925, found Miamisburg again the county champions and along with Butler played in the Regional. Miamisburg with a seasonal team won the championship of the district and went to Columbus to play for State championship, only to lose to Oberlin.

In 1926 was developed at Miamisburg perhaps the greatest basket ball team the county has ever seen. With a veteran team, every team met was defeated. The larger schools of this section were all victims to the Blue and White team from the Star City. Fairmont, after losing the county championship to Miamisburg, showed well in the Regional Tournament, only to lose to Wilmington. Miamisburg, after winning the Regional, went to Columbus hoping to win the State Championship, only to lose it in the last game to Oberlin, perhaps one of the best teams in the State. That is as close as Montgomery County has ever been to a State championship.

The outstanding teams in championship play have been Fairview, Butler, Fairmont, and Miamisburg, but the other schools are coming along rapidly and will be heard from in the near future.

Football has not been as popular as basket ball. Most of the high schools have had football teams in past years, but perhaps the outstanding team has been Miamisburg, who were awarded Class B Championship in 1924. Fairmont and West Carrollton have both had good football teams. Due to an increasing popularity of football, our county schools are putting more stress on football and in the near future most schools will be represented by good teams.

Baseball has proven a very popular sport in our county and especially has it met with favor in the smaller schools. Those schools which have no football teams usually have two seasons of baseball in their school year. A baseball league of county schools was organized several years ago and some keen interest resulted. The rivalry displayed equalled that of football or basket ball. In baseball, some of our smaller schools have shown great strength. Englewood was awarded county championship one year, having perhaps one of the best baseball teams in the history of the school. The same year, Johnsville-New Lebanon had a wonderful team, defeating the only team that won over Englewood, namely Miamisburg. During the last year Farmersville had a mighty good team in baseball.

One big reason for improvement in athletics is the development of coaching systems. No longer are the athletic teams of our schools under the control of some town idol or street corner athlete. Every school has a man employed by the Board of Education whose duty in part is to take charge of athletics in the capacity of a coach or manager. Superintendents and principals are taking a closer interest in the affairs of their teams. The State Association is becoming stricter in the enforcement of the rules and regulations. A better community spirit exists toward athletics than in the olden days. The losing team is now given credit for doing its best. The public demands clean sports, free from commercialism on the part of high school athletics.

With the hearty co-operation of school men within our county, we can raise our standard of athletics still higher and make them more helpful in every way to our community.

Butler Township, Runners-up in 1925.

Fairmont, Runners-up in 1926.

Brookville Schools

THE BUILDING

In the early days of Montgomery County the children of the village of Brookville attended school at the schoolhouse located about three-quarters of a mile north of the village. The original building was a log structure followed later by the conventional "little red schoolhouse" of brick. The brick building is still standing, though no longer does it house the children. It has passed into the hands of private individuals and serves as a home for the Steel family. At the time that this building was used as a school, the village was a part of the Clay Township school system and was known as the Liberty Corner School, or Sub-district No. 4.

In the course of time the village grew and the old house became too small to care for the increasing number of pupils. To care for this condition, it became necessary to erect a new structure. This building was not placed on the old site, but moved about a quarter of a mile nearer the village. Shortly after the new building was completed, the village, together with a part of the territory lying near, seceded and formed what was known as The Brookville Special School District. This structure was of red brick and contained two rooms. It still stands, though no longer does its bell call the children to their tasks. Several years ago it was sold and fitted up as a dwelling. It is now unoccupied and stands in solitary grandeur among the silver poplars with which the playgrounds were profusely set.

With the passage of time the population of the district grew. In the early nineties it was evident that something would have to be done to provide for the rapidly growing student body. The people who lived in the village felt that the new structure should be nearer the center of the school population. Those living west of the town favored the old site. Finally the villagers prevailed and it was decided to place the building on the site occupied by the present school plant. The first four rooms of this building were completed and occupied in the winter of 1894-1895. It was thought that this building would take care of the district's needs for many years. As has been the case in many communities, this was found not to be the case. In the year 1897 a new two-room addition was added at the southwest corner of the original structure. This cared for the needs until 1909, when the building was increased by the erection of another two rooms at the northwest corner. This did not long meet the demand for room and we find the housing facilities increased by the building of a four-room building immediately in the rear of the other, in 1915. The two were connected by an enclosed passage. This only served for a short time. Soon it was necessary to erect a two-room frame building to care for the overflow.

Agitation was begun to care for the constantly growing number. In February, 1920, a bond issue for two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was passed for the purpose of relieving the situation. The high prices that prevailed for a time after the World War delayed construction for a time. Many were anxious that something be done, so in 1922 the contract was let for a building large enough to care for the entire school population, both grades and high school. The building was not quite ready for occupancy when school opened in the fall of 1923. By October it was possible to move and soon all were in their new quarters.

SUPERVISION AND SUPERINTENDENTS

In the early days while the district was a part of Clay Township, little or no attempt was made at supervision. The teacher followed his own pleasure or the conventional course followed by others of that time. When the school was moved to the building known as the Brookville Special and several teachers were employed, one of these naturally became the head. The earliest of these that the writer could learn of was Mr. S. A. Minnich. At this time no formal high school course was offered, but to those who so desired some work in those branches now recognized as belonging to the high school was given.

Following Mr. Minnich, as the administrative head, comes one who has had more to do in shaping the destinies of this district than any other, viz., Mr. Herman Fox. From this time on until his death, only this last winter, he was always interested in the cause of education, not only locally, but generally. Much of the time he was actively engaged in the work, first as a teacher, then as a member of the local board, next as a member of the county board, and as a member of the State legislature. In the latter he was a member of the committee on schools. It was during his administration that a high school was organized, and in the spring of 1889 the first class was graduated. Having educated himself for other work, Mr. Fox soon retired from the profession and was succeeded by his brother, Mr. Theodore Fox, under whose administration the work was continued.

The next to occupy the superintendency was Mr. G. W. Brumbaugh. It was during his administration that the first four rooms of the old building on the present site were constructed. During the last year of his term of office the student body was moved from the old Brookville Special District building and housed in rooms in the village until the new building was ready for occupancy. Shortly before the end of the school year they moved into the building. At the close of that year Mr. Brumbaugh was offered a position in the Dayton, Ohio, schools. This he accepted and he is still in that system, being principal of one of the grade buildings.

The next superintendent was Mr. W. W. Helwig, the first of several of the graduates of the school to occupy the position. He completed the moving into the new building and continued the work of developing the school.

Following Mr. Helwig comes one who has the longest period of service of any who has served the district. This was Mr. A. A. Maysilles. Much of the success of the schools is due to his wise leadership. Many activities that later became county wide had their beginnings here. His leadership soon passed the boundaries of his local district and we were called upon to share his services with others. He continued his leadership here until the school code was adopted providing for county administration. He left us to become the first County Superintendent, which position he will continue to fill until almost time for this volume to appear, when he will retire.

With the adoption of the new code the status of the district was changed. It now became a part of the county system and for a number of years was supervised by a district superintendent. To this position was called Mr. D. A. Puderbaugh. It was during this period that the character of many of our rural and village schools was changed. Brookville changed with the others. Many of the surrounding schools were becoming small in numbers and in

order to best serve the children it was advisable to close them and transport them to other schools. The county board, wherever possible, did this. Several of the sub-districts in Clay Township to the north and in Perry Township to the south were annexed to the Brookville District.

This brought up a new phase to the school problem, namely the transportation of pupils. In looking over the minutes of the meetings of the board for the summer of 1916, we find them discussing the purchase of wagons to transport the pupils. They secured four and as the size of the district increased, the number of wagons increased. Trucks were introduced in 1918. In the first days of transportation the conveyances were owned by private individuals, but in 1920 they were purchased by the board. Since that time we have operated them, using high school boys as drivers. It now requires nine trucks to transport the pupils of the district. Mr. Puderbaugh's period of administration was the time of territorial expansion. Naturally, it was during this time that much of the agitating for more housing took place.

In 1919 it was felt that the district was large enough to exist as a separate unit for supervision, so the local board passed a resolution calling on the county board to organize it as such. This the county board did and Mr. John E. Fox, who had been principal for several years under Mr. Maysilles, was elected to be the first 4740 superintendent, for a period of three years. Mr. Puderbaugh continued in his position of Assistant County Superintendent, serving other parts of the county.

The school population had been increasing rapidly and even before the change of administration there had been much agitation for a new building. As noted in another article, this agitation came to a head when, in February, 1920, a bond issue was voted for that purpose. After studying many plans, the contract was let in 1922. Before the new building was completed, Mr. Fox retired from the teaching profession, to engage in the undertaking business first in Hamilton, Ohio, later moving to Springfield, Ohio, where he is now located.

Old High School Building.

Mr. Wm. F. Meyer, who had occupied the position of high school principal under Mr. Fox, succeeded him. During the fall of 1923 the school moved into the new building. Mr. Meyer resigned during the summer of 1924 and accepted a position in the schools of Columbus, Ohio. He was succeeded by Mr. Chester Johnston, who still holds the position.

Thus in its history nine men have held the administrative head. Of these all but the first three are still living. Of those living, all with the exception of Mr. John E. Fox are still actively engaged in the teaching profession.

ALUMNI OF BROOKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

A class of seven, three boys and four girls, made up the first graduating class of the Brookville High School. This was in the spring of 1889. The school had been organized under the leadership of Mr. Herman Fox and he made up the entire faculty. On several occasions the writer heard Mr. Fox speak of that class. He was proud of it and its achievements. Six of the seven soon were engaged in the teaching profession. Two of the seven have been closely identified with the school work, both locally and in the county. I refer to Mr. A. A. Maysilles and Mr. W. W. Helwig. Of the seven that made up that class, six are still living.

Since the time that class has left the old school, without the break of a single year others have followed. In many years greater numbers have gone forth, in a few not so many, but all have had the accomplishments of that first class as an inspiration to spur them on to greater things.

The smallest class to be graduated was that of 1896, when two made up the class. The largest class to be sent out was in the spring of 1925, when forty-two joined the ever-increasing ranks. The total number who claim this as their alma mater is 504. A remarkable thing in connection with this is that 484 of these are still living. They have scattered to all parts of this country and several have found their work has taken them to foreign lands. You can find them engaged in the various walks of life. Some are engaged in commercial pursuits, some heal the sick, others minister to the needs of the soul as ministers of the gospel. Some are found in the courts engaging in the practice of law. Wherever one might need one, some graduate could be found to perform the task to be accomplished.

A few might be mentioned. Of the first class, two have already been mentioned. Of the class of 1891, Mr. E. J. Weaver is a practicing attorney in Dayton, Ohio. To Mrs. A. M. Tucker, of this class, we are indebted for the careful way in which she has kept the roll of graduates up to date. The Rev. D. J. Good, of this class, is the pastor of the Patterson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Dayton. C. D. Newsock, of the class of 1892, was for a number of years a teacher here, later had charge of the trucks, and is now a traveling salesman. Dr. H. C. Mundhenk is a successful physician located in his home town. He was of the class of 1895. A. A. Arnold, 1898, is located in Dayton and is teaching manual training in the school system there. John E. Fox, 1901, is located in Springfield, Ohio, where he is engaged in the undertaking business. For many years he was connected with this school as teacher, principal, and superintendent. Ralph M. Fox, 1903, has a pastorate in Cincinnati, Ohio. H. B. Boomershine, 1904, is superintendent of schools at West Jefferson, Ohio. Herman Beneke, 1905, is a successful

teacher connected with the faculty of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. The class of 1906 gives us Miss Edith M. Cox, the ranking teacher in point of service in the present high school faculty, and Dr. John H. Pansing, county health commissioner of Montgomery County. Jesse E. Stomberger, pastor of the Lutheran Church at Jeffersontown, Kentucky, was of the class of 1907. Lee W. Fox, 1908, is the manager of the Brookville Bridge Works. He is a member of the present school board. Nineteen ten gives us Jesse Horner, who is connected with Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio. W. F. Meyer, superintendent from 1922 to 1924, finished in 1909. Walter C. McNelly, 1916, is a member of the faculty of the College of Education, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

There are many others who could be mentioned if space permitted, others whose achievements would add to the brightness of the record. Many of the younger generation of alumni are in institutions of learning, preparing themselves for places of usefulness in the world. Only time will tell which of these will take up the work where the older ones must lay it down. Of one thing we are sure, that is that we will find some of these doing their part to add something to the glorious record of those who have blazed the way.

The present high school faculty is as follows:

Superintendent and Instructor of Mathematics—Chester Johnston, Miami University and Columbia University.

Principal of High School, instructor of General Science, American History, Civics, Physics, and Director of Athletics—Robert Warnke, Wittenberg College.

Instructor of Latin, English, and Biology—Miss Edith Cox, Otterbein College and Columbia University.

Instructor of Modern History, French, Chemistry, and Music—Miss Vergyl Drayer, Otterbein College and University of Cincinnati.

Instructor of English—Mrs. Mayno Baker Hearshey, North Manchester and University of Chicago.

Instructor of Smith-Hughes Agriculture—C. B. Wright, College of Agriculture, Ohio State University.

Instructor of Commercial Subjects—Miss Jennie Davidson, Buffalo Business Institute and Oberlin Business College.

Instructor of Home Economics—Miss Elma Grubbs, Bowling Green Normal College.

Teachers in the grades:

First Grade—Miss Ruth Baker.

Second Grade—Miss Blanche Clark.

Combined Second and Third Grades—Miss Josephine Fox.

Third Grade—Miss Agnes Roller.

Fourth Grade—Mrs. Della West and Mrs. Bessie Oliver.

Fifth Grade—Mrs. Bonnie Duckwall.

Sixth Grade—Miss Orfa Lauver.

Seventh Grade—Miss Gladys Marshall.

Eighth Grade—Mrs. Naomi Lentz.

Board of Education—George Somers, President; Lee W. Fox, Vice-President; Lester Garber, L. E. Smith, Robert Will, U. A. Hay, Clerk-Treasurer.

The high school now has seven full-time instructors and the superin-

tendent, who gives half-time to instruction. Four years of English are offered. In the social sciences, Ancient History, Modern History, American History and Civics, Sociology and Economics may be taken. General Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are offered in the natural sciences. Those who desire to take up the languages are offered four years of Latin and two years of French. The course in Agriculture offers the regular four-year Smith-Hughes Course. In the Commercial Department, Stenography, Typewriting, Commercial Geography, Commercial Arithmetic, and Bookkeeping may be had. Those who desire may receive instruction in sewing, both elementary and advanced, Cooking, Home Sanitation, and Household Management in the Department of Home Economics. Owing to financial conditions, it is only possible to offer Manual Training alternate years. There is a well equipped department and when the district regains its financial balance it will be possible to offer as good courses as are offered anywhere.

When the student comes, he can chose one of three courses. The General Course is the one which seems to attract the greatest number. It is planned to prepare those for college who desire that preparation and to care for those who are undecided as to what they are to do after leaving school. Those who are planning a business career select the commercial course. As this is the center of an excellent agricultural district, the Smith-Hughes Course is popular. This department was organized five years ago and many of our rural boys have been educated through it to remain on the farm.

The school has had a steady growth and, judging by the last enumeration, bids fair to continue. Last year's enrollment was the largest ever had and was as follows: First grade, 59; second grade, 83; third grade, 63; fourth grade, 67; fifth grade, 54; sixth grade, 68; seventh grade, 46; eighth grade, 45. Total for the grades, 475. In high school, as follows: Freshmen, 67; sophomores, 45; juniors, 43; seniors, 32. Total for the high school, 187. Total for grades and high school, 662.

THE BUILDING

The present building is a two-story and basement structure of buff-colored brick. Both grades and high school are housed in it. The high school occupies the entire second floor while the grades are all found on the first. The basement is given over to the Agricultural, Cooking, and Manual Training Departments. Two assembly rooms, with a library between, are found in the central part of the floor occupied by the high school. Here the classes assemble, the senior and junior in one and the sophomore and freshman in the other. These are the home rooms and here the student does his studying while in school. In the northeast corner the Commercial Department is situated. Two rooms are given over to this department, one equipped with desks for bookkeeping and the other as a typewriter room. The typewriter room is equipped with fifteen standard typewriters of three different makes. The rest of the north end of the floor is given over to the natural sciences. There are three rooms in this department, the central one being a recitation or lecture room. The one to the east of this is the Physics laboratory. This is equipped with four tables and equipment necessary for experimental work in that subject. To the west of the lecture room is found the Chemistry laboratory. Just south of the senior-junior study hall is located the office of the principal. Next to it is the rest room for the

New Brookville School.

ladies of the faculty. The remaining rooms on this floor are used as recitation rooms. As before stated, the first floor is used by the grades. The auditorium is located on the west side of the central section of the building. The main floor opening is off the corridor on the first, while the gallery is reached from the same on the second. It has a total seating capacity of 742, which gives a seating capacity sufficient to care for all occasions. It is seated with opera chairs. The stage is large enough to accommodate the productions desired. A picture booth is provided, but as yet we do not have the picture machine. That is one of the things we hope to have soon. It is not the intention of those in charge to use it for the entertainment feature, but to provide the necessary visual education. The administrative office is located on the first floor, just to the left of the main entrance, while to the right is found a room equipped as a rest room for the grade teachers.

In connection with Home Economics Department, a cafeteria is operated. This is located in the basement next to the cooking laboratory. The preparation of the lunch is in charge of a woman who works under the direction of the instructor of the department. None of the work is done by the students of the department as such. Several of them help to serve, but it is not a part of their school work.

The gymnasium is located in the basement just beneath the auditorium. Here a spacious floor provides one of the best basket ball courts in the county. A seating space large enough to accommodate five hundred persons provides room to care for the spectators.

The heating plant is found in the sub-basement. The entire house is heated and ventilated, as are all modern school buildings.

A master clock located in the office and secondary clocks in the classrooms assure us that all departments are operating on the same time schedule.

Old Brookville Special.

Interior View of Auditorium of the Brookville School.

Interior View of Manual Training Shop at Brookville School.

Interior View of Domestic Science Room at Brookville School.

Secret Orders of A. A. Maysilles

The first order joined by Mr. Maysilles was the Grangers, before he was of age and he still holds membership in the Verona Lodge.

Over thirty years ago, he became a Knight of Pythias, went through the chairs, and served as county deputy.

He is a member of Gem City Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 795, of Dayton, Ohio.

He was made a Mason about twenty years ago and belongs to Brookville Lodge, No. 596. He is also a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Dayton, Ohio, and Shrine.

He joined the Jr. O. U. A. M. at Brookville, Ohio, about twenty years ago.

His busy life in his profession and kindred activities have made it impossible of late years to attend lodge in any of them often.

The Schools of Butler Township

This is the story of the little red schoolhouse. For more than a century the little one-roomed or two-roomed schoolhouses served the needs of this community, and served it well, but like the horse and buggy, like kings and emperors, like the local grist mills and woolen factories, like canal boats and even traction cars, like many other things in the line of progress, the little red schoolhouse is gone. The buildings have become private property and the yards are filled with fences and chicken coops and clothes lines and other accoutrements of domesticity. And I wonder how long we will continue to speak of parts of the township as Antioch, or Election, or Pine Grove, or Glasgow! In the future when committees are chosen, will they be named from Polk, and Brown, and Quaker and Anderson and Frog Pond? And what will children of the next generation know of such events as "Last Day of School," "Penning the Teacher Out," or "Ciphering Matches and Spelling Schools," or walking home from school in large groups and with much fun, or mayhap in the warm springtime with just one lad or lassie? Where does the modern child get a woodshed with which to play jail or how can they play "Andy Over" with such a big schoolhouse? And just think! Even the school bell no longer exists!

But with these things there has gone also many things not so good, like muddy roads and wet feet, overheated or underheated rooms, unsanitary grounds, small uninteresting classes; above all, crowded programs for teachers.

There is very little written history of the schools of Butler Township. From a History of Montgomery County, published in 1882, we gather a few statements concerning the beginning of public education in this township. It says that soon after settlers came they began to think of instruction for their children and schools were held in abandoned cabins or private homes or in log schoolhouses and were taught by professional teachers or Methodist circuit riders, or Quaker ministers. One of the earliest schools was near Antioch and was taught by Edward Easton. As early as 1808, there was a schoolhouse a short distance south of Polk. John Hutchins, Wm. Millikin, and Jim Wright were the names of some who taught there. Also about that time there was school in the Quaker meetinghouse and a Mr. Bratton, Christopher Furnas, Benjamin Coffin, and John Huff taught there. In 1811 was the beginning of the Brown School and a Mr. Brown was the teacher. The story is told that there was one problem in arithmetic which the master could not solve and one of the boys, Billy Sunderland, went out to a stump back of the schoolhouse, where he could concentrate, and he finally got the answer.

All other information we have gathered from the remote corners of the memories of some of our older citizens, and we were fortunate in finding many who were willing to help us. We have by no means made exhaustive research, nor have we room to use all the information we did get. No name has been purposely left out, but we simply had to quit collecting, for lack of space.

Over eighty years ago a Quaker preacher named Dan. Hutchins taught the children at Quaker. A 10 o'clock on the fifth day the school would go over to the meetinghouse to worship with their elders. Some minister would stand up and say, "Thee should not work so hard and seek to gain the whole

world." Among the early teachers there were also Isaac Coppock, Martha Patty, and an aged maiden lady who was very cross.

In the old log schoolhouse at Election we go back to 1838. Sandburn, Ramsburg, and Reuben Roof were schoolmasters (not called teachers) in those days. Mollie Wilhelm, ninety-five years old, and Michael Coover, eighty-eight, have told me about them. That schoolhouse had seats made of slabs of logs and about the wall were higher seats and desks for older children. The windows were horizontal. The stove was in the center of the room and on a stool was a large water bucket and dipper. I imagine this house was not as free from cold and drafts as it might have been.

Another master was a man who liked his bottle, which he kept in a hollow beech tree until some of the boys found it. Then came Judge Jim Baggott, whom the scholars penned out at Christmas. He made a battering ram and broke the door in and then he treated to apples and cider. Another teacher was Shepley, who kept a large bundle of whips in one corner. Then there were Lige Ensley, Hannah Newman, Rose Lodge, two Fox girls, George Kepler, Sam. Colvin, Dan. Staley, Millie Hote, and Rev. John Nine.

Another teacher, Job Martin, was self-educated, having learned to read after he was twenty. In later times we have Rose Thompson, Walter Martindale, Shelly Caylor, Daws Bennert, and Walter Hubley.

In the very early days at Little York there was a circuit rider named Caldwell. In 1861, Sam. Colvin was the teacher and he made a patriotic and witty speech to the boys going to war and he went with them as far as Dayton. These soldiers were a Reed boy, two Stevens boys, Harve Kertner, and others. Kertner was afterward a teacher of the York School. And then there was a brilliant Irish boy, a native of Little York, a Lebanon graduate and a student for the priesthood—Tommy O'Brian.

Ed. Stoner was the first teacher in the Glasgow School in 1889. Others were: Geo. Kepler, Ed. Waymire, J. W. Waymire, Viola Tucker, Callie Kinser, Esta Eidemiller, Mrs. Kanter, Olive Faulkner, Chester Greer, and Coray Brussman.

For Polk we have a list of names of teachers: Ida Gilbert, Laura Gilbert, Jacob Sinks, O. P. Swartzel, T. J. Hawn, L. A. Bennert, Wilbur Bennert, Clyde Miller, Jacob W. Ghering, E. W. Wines, Esta Eidemiller, Hal B. Stoner, H. E. McCartney, J. W. Waymire, John F. Eidemiller, S. B. Miller, Susie Kinzie, Clara Seamer, Miss Moorehead (Dr. Pumphrey's wife), O. P. Gutshaw, Mr. Bayer, and Noah Alsbaugh.

There were three different houses at Antioch, each at a different place. In that district we can go back of the Civil War with Nathan Iddings and Eunice Pearson. In 1862, Dan. W. Williams, with some of his scholars, enlisted and he was killed at Gettysburg. Some of the other teachers at Antioch were Mr. Gerard, Clara Kessler, Tim. Hawn, Jane Molt, Wm. Stonebreaker, Sam'l Furnas, Rev. P. W. Sinks, Rev. O. P. Furnas, Martha Patty, Hannah Newman, Wm. Long, Jennie and Nannie Macy, Mary Evans, John F. Eidemiller, Chester Greer, Hazel Mast, W. H. Beard, and Ira Lutz.

The Frog Pond School is not so old as the other schools, for it was built in 1870. Among the teachers were Wm. Ely, Nannie Macy, Miss Pearson, John F. Eidemiller, Chas. O'Neil, Mary Evans, Luther Heidinger, Esta Eidemiller, Wilburg Patty, Arthur Swartzel, and Ralph Demmitt.

At the Anderson School, Chas. C. Davidson and Levi Rasor were teachers. Geo. O. Demmitt taught there nine years. In 1870, Sam'l Spitler was the teacher at Anderson and G. W. Hous at Election and they roomed together at Smith's. Both of these men afterward became widely known as physicians.

In the old brick schoolhouse at Pine Grove were desks made entirely of wood—double seats with a partition between. The last brick schoolhouse was built in 1870. Our list of teachers includes a Mr. Kerr, Geo. Tenny, Jos. Landis, Tom. North, Geo. H. Smith, Martha Patty, Margaret Patty, John Smith, Thomas Clark, Fannie Williams, Priscilla Surface, Esther Tenny, Belle Brump, A. G. Eidemiller, W. H. McCartney, Coray Brussman, Hannah Newman, and Cerilder Mills, who introduced a more extensive course in grammar.

Vandalia School had three rooms. Among the teachers there were Ada Hale (Lodge), Minnie Altimer (Jackson), Michael Bennert, P. P. Ellis, E. C. Yarnell, and Ed. Waymire. And we must not forget such famous men as S. H. Carr, Dr. Sam'l Towman, Rev. John Nine, and Mr. Evans. The last named taught a high school there. For years the Vandalia School was separate from the township schools.

At Chambersburg or Murlin Heights we have W. C. Reeder, Lillie Turner, W. H. Altimer, Mrs. Bessie Teeter, Geo. C. Helser, Harry Arnold, Belle Mast (O'Neil), Jessie Horner, Esta Eidemiller, Callie Kinser, Florence Engle, and Ralph Demmitt.

Many graduates of Butler High School taught in the latter days of the little red schoolhouses. Of these were Ralph Ryder, Dr. E. E. Furnas, Ernest Littleton, Vivien Stoner, Mary Margaret Stoner, Russell Stoner, Cosette Stoner, Mark Ryder, Walter Boughton, Ruth Heiringer, Lillian Hulse, Ruth Hulse, Rachael Kreigbaum, Ruby Boll, Edna Boll, Genevieve Kiel, Silvia Bohlander, Grace McDaniel, Susanna Lodge, Lois E. Lodge, and Nellie Stockslager.

It may be news to many that there was once a colored school in this township—at Chambersburg. Ed. Waymire was a teacher; also Kate Demmitt and a Miss Kennedy. The colored families were: Greene, Walker, Vermillion, Foster, Fulton, Robinson, Samson, Alexander, and Thornton.

There were sometimes special schools. In 1862 Erilla Brown taught a summer school at Little York, and at one time Mrs. David White taught writing school at night at Election.

Two school reunions have been held at Antioch and at Pine Grove reunions are held every five years, beginning in 1906.

There is one class of men connected with the schools whose glory should be more widely sung. Many long, tedious nights have these busy farmers spent threshing out school problems without pay or much praise. I refer to the school boards. I would like to preserve the names of them all, but have room only for two praiseworthy boards—the one that built Old Butler: J. Q. A. Coover, President, Henry Ryder, Elias Routson, Daniel Vaniman, Daniel Stockslager, Jacob Stockslager, John Johnson, Wm. Royer, I. J. Anderson, and J. K. Booher; Geo. O. Demmitt, Clerk. And the board that built the centralized school: Wm. Wells, Ed. Cotterman, John Klepinger, W. L. Waymire, and John Jackson; Ralph Demmitt, Clerk.

In the year 1862 there came to this township from Pennsylvania two young school-teachers who were graduates of the famous Millersville Normal,

in Lancaster County. They were attracted here by the higher salaries—forty dollars per month, instead of twenty-five dollars in Pennsylvania. One of these men, Samuel Faus, taught several years and then returned to his native State. The other one, Christian W. Eby, remained and was connected with our schools for more than a quarter of a century. The coming of these two was in war times and they together agreed that since they had prepared themselves to teach, they would not enlist, but if they were drafted, they would go —would not hire substitutes. But it happened they did not have to serve.

Mr. Eby began his Ohio teaching in the Little York School and he taught in many of the schools of the township, including seven years at Brown. He was the first township superintendent. While he taught, he was allowed two weeks in the fall and two in the spring to go to the other schools to grade and line them up. He planned the first uniform course of study for the township. Before that, each teacher taught what books he liked.

He was a man of vision. He began talking a central high school twenty years before one was built. People told him that he was a dreamer and ahead of his time and a proposition for a high school was even voted down away back in the eighties, yet his talk no doubt influenced many young people who afterward carried on the fight until it finally won in 1900. When, in 1904, Mr. Eby returned for a visit from Kansas, whence he had moved in 1890, he saw Old Butler High School standing as a final fulfilling of his early desires. And when he came again this winter he could stand out at Butler Centralized School and remember that he was a pioneer in the centralizing of instruction in Butler Township. He could also see perhaps some of the great-grandchildren of his early pupils marching out and getting in the busses that carry them to their homes in all parts of the township.

After C. W. Eby, the superintending seems not to have been continuous. One winter a Mr. Wines taught at Polk and acted as overseer of the other teachers, and Noah Alsbaugh also had oversight of all the schools. I remember that in 1899 the teachers met together without a central head and made out examination questions, dividing the grades and subjects among themselves. I remember that it happened by this system that the sixth grade arithmetic was more advanced than the seventh!

In 1900 Butler High School was built, or as it is now called—Old Butler. It was situated one and one-half miles west of Vandalia at the intersection of the National Road and Peters Pike. In the fall of 1900 Prof. J. E. Peterson began to superintend the schools and to teach the newly organized high school. The latter numbered twenty-four pupils of varying ages, for some had finished the grades and been out of school several years when this opportunity was given them, and some had done work in other high schools and even in Antioch College. The school was held in the township house in Vandalia until January, 1901, when the new building was finished. At the dedication, O. T. Corson, State School Commissioner, was the principal speaker. Other speakers were Noah Alsbaugh, and Ed. Stoner, as patron of the school, and Harvey Eidemiller, a pupil.

The first class was graduated in 1903 and there has been a total of nineteen commencements at Old Butler, graduating 143 pupils. There were four classes, fifty-five pupils, that moved to the centralized in January, 1922. And, counting those who went part time to Butler and for one reason or

another did not finish, I think we can safely say that almost 600 boys and girls were pupils there. What its influence has been in the lives of this community cannot be measured.

To Prof. J. E. Peterson is due much credit for the success of the school. He planned the course of study and introduced many of the customs and functions of the school which still exist. He was a man with originality of thought and he taught many things not in the books. And at football or boxing he was one of the boys.

In the spring of 1902 the high school celebrated Arbor Day. Each pupil planted a tree, and some of these trees are still growing. One boy who for his dreamy eyes and physical inactivity was known as "Asleep in Jesus," reduced manual labor to a minimum and planted a sprout which he had knocked from a sycamore stump and it grew!

In the fall of 1902 another teacher was added to the school—Mary Engle Kayler, from Athens, Ohio. And the next year in her stead was Estella Ashworth and then J. Howard Beeson. And also came "Prof. Smith the Mighty," or "Uncle John," or "The Intellectual Daddy of Us All," as certain school poets and orators have described him; and for seventeen years he has been the faithful, efficient head of teaching in Butler Township. The coming of J. E. Smith was on this wise: Peterson resigned to go into other business, just two weeks before school was to open in 1904. The teachers' institute was in session, and Coray Brussman and my father, C. F. Lambert, as a committee of the school board, went there to find another man. The price they offered was better than some places, so they received many applications, but Prof. Smith said, "I will come provided my other board will let me off." Because of this considerateness he received the position.

The pupils' estimate of Prof Smith's unconquerable spirit is shown by this story: A group of boys were eating dinner in the old furnace room and some one said he had read where a high school was in a flood and they had to close school. Several said they wished that might happen at Butler, so they would have a vacation. "Oh, that would never stop Prof. Smith!" was the answer. "He would say, 'Rupert, where is that bucket, we'll bail this thing out.'"

Other teachers who taught at Old Butler were Blanche Howe, Ethel Melsheimer, Rhea Shanck, Cloe Z. Niswonger, Raymond Ryder, Mrs. Arthur Tadge, Nell Heck, Russell Stoner, Blanche Turnbull, Rev. J. H. Keyser, and Olive Yeoman. Prof. Smith was gone for four years and Fred. Class, Mr. Rumbarger, and Mr. Kelbaugh were principals, District Supt. C. F. Meyer supervising. There were a number of music teachers, whose names we have not collected.

If we had space we would like to tell of the geology excursions, the football game with Troy, the class flag fights, the war with Vandalia, the botany specimens over the edge of Sunderland Falls, the buggy races homeward, and many more happenings of B. H. S. Old Butler was just a country high school, like many others throughout this broad land during that time, and the hard work of teachers and pupils and the high ideals of such schools have been the strength of this nation. From Old Butler have gone out missionaries to the ends of the earth; there have gone out preachers and doctors and nurses; and educators and artists and artisans and, above all—home builders and peaceful citizens.

—Russell R. Lambert.

Old High School Building West of Vandalia.

New Centralized Building of Butler Township.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP

The most progressive steps in education in Butler Township were taken in the spring of 1920, when the people, on March 30, voted to centralize the schools of the township. Soon thereafter the location for the new centralized building was purchased near Vandalia, where drainage could be obtained at a better advantage. George Walker was employed by the board of education to draw up the plans for the new building.

Much credit is due the Board of Education, consisting of J. A. Klepinger, E. F. Cotterman, W. L. Waymire, W. S. Wells, and J. I. Jackson, together with R. W. Demmitt as clerk-treasurer, for their devotion and interest in carrying the plans to completion. In the spring of 1921 the County Board of Education transferred the Vandalia Special District to the township and on January 13, 1922, 575 pupils were transported for the first time by truck, to be housed in one central building. Years of discussion and education had reached fruition.

BUTLER BOARD

Top Row, left to right—Ed Lodge, R. W. Demmitt, W. F. Meyers. Lower Row—Arthur Jackson, G. A. Gorham, Chas. W. Borchers.

Butler Township Teachers

An active Parent-Teachers Association was soon organized, under the leadership of Mrs. Claude Ryder. The organization has been an active agent in purchasing playground apparatus, and in introducing religious education in the schools of the township.

Each year the senior class has conducted a lyceum course, which has been both entertaining and instructive to the patrons. A large dining room and kitchen enable a large percent of the pupils to receive warm lunches each day.

In the fall of 1922, a Smith-Hughes Department was added to our course, under the instruction of W. P. Elhardt. This department has fully justified itself in the large number of boys, who have taken an active interest in this line of work. A new gymnasium now enlisted the boys and girls in an active manner in athletics. Under the direction of Coach A. C. Senseman, the teams have been able to meet and defeat the best teams on the floor.

Transportation, which is one of the large problems in a centralized school, has been very successfully worked out by the Board of Education. Chester R. Cotterman, as master-mechanic, was secured in 1922, whose services continue at the present time. High school boys of legal age are secured as drivers. In four and one-half years of transportation, using fourteen trucks, no accident has happened.

The high school at present numbers 135 pupils, with five and one-half teachers.

The seventh and eighth grades will be departmentalized in September, 1926, under the direction of three teachers, as a junior high school. By this plan we hope to give the pupils more adequate preparation for senior high school work. Forty-three pupils were promoted to high school on May 2, 1926.

The annual report of 1925 and 1926 shows a total of 658 pupils in the school system, with an increasing number each year.

The people of the township have always shown a readiness to provide adequate school facilities, and believe that the best is none too good for their children. With this in mind, those who have the schools under their immediate direction may look forward to larger things to be accomplished in Butler Township.

Much has been accomplished, but in our vision greater achievements lay before us. New occasions teach new duties. Having set our hands to the task, we must not look back, lest we lose sight of the momentous problems before us.

Clay Township

By W. W. Helwig

Clay Township lies in the northwest corner of Montgomery County and is one of the few townships in this county having regular boundary lines and containing thirty-six sections. Joseph Rohrer was the first pioneer to take up land in what is now Clay Township. He entered a part of Section 14 in 1804, and was followed by Michael Baker in 1805, who settled in Section 26. John Spitler came in, a few years later, and married a daughter of Joseph Rohrer.

Because of the swampy condition of the northern part of the township, settlers were not attracted by the possibilities of these rich deposits of soil until the other townships were fairly settled. After 1820 the population increased rapidly and on June 8, 1825, Clay Township was formally set apart from Randolph.

Its topography is such that there is no waste land in the township, the southeast corner being slightly rolling, while the remainder is so level that it requires rather large artificial ditches for drainage. The soil is highly productive and aside from the usual live stock and grain output, it is one of the heaviest tobacco producing townships in the county. Road building was a simple affair in the early days, for the grades were easy and the bridges few.

The first school of which we have any record was established in 1815, in Section 13, and a building of unhewn logs was erected near the springs on the Worman and Spitler farms. This later became the Worman School, or No. 2.

The next school was located in Section 26, northeast of the present town of Brookville, on the farm of Michael Baker, and the third school was located in Section 34, across the road from the Liberty Corner School, as it was afterwards named.

All section lines were opened up as public roads and the nine subdistrict schools were regularly established.

District No. 1 was located in the northeast and was known as Bunker Hill School from the large regular mound at the rear of the building. A part of this district was later absorbed by the Phillipsburg Village District. The first building was erected in 1845, southwest of the present site.

The building in No. 2 was erected two miles south of Bunker Hill School and was known as the Worman School. It was built in 1815.

District No. 3 was located south of No. 2 and was known as the Minnich School.

District No. 4 was located two miles west and was known as Liberty Corner School and the building was erected in 1820. This district was absorbed by the Brookville Special and a four-room building was erected in 1869, one-half mile south of the corner, and Brookville Special was later included in the Brookville Centralized District.

District No. 5, known as the Arlington District, was located in the center of the township adjacent to Section 16, or the School Lease Section. This district is still a part of the Clay Township system and deserves special mention.

District No. 6 was north of No. 5, the building being located on the Phillipsburg and Verona Pike.

District No. 7 was west of No. 6 on the same pike, but near enough to the village of Verona, Preble County, to be absorbed by the Verona Centralized Schools.

District No. 8, south of No. 7, was known as the Wengerlawn School. This district remains as a part of the Clay Township school system.

District No. 9 was located south of No. 8, the first building being erected on the upper Lewisburg Pike. This district was absorbed by the Brookville Centralized Schools.

The log or frame buildings soon gave way to substantial brick structures and were well cared for. In most cases the grounds were beautified and splendid equipments were furnished for the buildings, for there existed from the pioneer days a desire to make the Clay Township schools the best in the county.

It was necessary in the early seventies to add an additional room to some of the buildings, but in most cases new buildings of the two-story type were erected. Thus No. 4, or the Brookville building, which contained four rooms, numbers five, six, seven, and eight, each had that peculiar form of architecture, a second-story schoolroom.

With so much ground space to be had, it is a wonder to us that the builders used such unsightly, unhandy, and otherwise undesirable structures and it does not surprise us to learn that in less than twenty-five years these buildings disappeared and beautiful buildings like the one pictured on page 72, were erected.

While each of these nine schools turned out its quota of teachers, doctors, lawyers, ministers, local business men, and farmers, there are three schools in the township that should have special mention, iz.: Phillipsburg, Arlington, and Brookville Special.

A history of Phillipsburg Schools appears in this volume in alphabetical order.

History of Arlington School, District No. 5, Clay Township

By C. D. Rasor

The Arlington School, located one-half mile north of Arlington, in the southwest corner of Section 15, was organized about the year 1835.

The first building was made of logs, the desks consisted of plank laid on pins driven in the walls, the seats were made of slabs and had no back rests.

The second building was erected in the same place as the log building, in the year 1852. This consisted of a one-story, one-room brick building.

The following are the teachers who taught in these two buildings: Jacob Vankard, Mary Rumbean, Mr. McGrew, Isaac Foster, Mr. Hendricks, Susan Hoover, Noah Wogaman, Warren Hooven, Elizabeth Riley, Joseph Sloan, Henry Foster, George Kepler, John Meyers, Henry Hatfield, J. Kessler.

At that time the pupils would attend school until they were twenty-two years old. Often the room would be crowded, and it became necessary to

employ two teachers for the same room. In the course of time this building became inadequate to accommodate the number of pupils and in 1875 it became necessary to erect a larger building. It was at this time that a two-story, two-room building was erected.

During the earlier years two remarkable families started their education in the Arlington Schools, the Spitler and the Niswonger families.

The Spitler family produced four physicians, viz.: Lee, still practicing in Dayton, Ohio; Samuel, in Wellington, Kansas; Charles, in Salem, Indiana, and John, deceased, who was practicing in Greenville, Ohio, when he died.

From the Niswonger family came W. C. Niswonger, a minister of the gospel, now preaching in Dayton, Ohio; Ella, a preacher; Cerilda, a doctor, Cassie, a milliner, and Martha, a nurse.

The following are the teachers who taught in this building: Henry Hatfield, Eliza Bachman, George House, Joseph Studebaker, Alice Morse, Ruth Voorhees, Samuel Minnich, Ephram Somers, Amanda Spitler, C. Riley, E. P. Vaughan, George Dasher, Melvina Toman, Miss Harry, Elizabeth Fox, Clara Duckwall, Thomas White, John Barnes, Ida Rasor, Pharon Davis, Wm. Beachler, C. D. Rasor, Nelle Voorhees, Robert Small, and A. A. Maysilles.

The Clay Township High School was organized by Wm. Beachler in 1889 in this two-story building. Mr. Beachler taught seven years in this building and graduated the first class from the Clay Township High School in 1891.

His successor as high school teacher was Robert Small, followed by A. A. Maysilles.

During the teaching of A. A. Maysilles, the present three-room building was erected, in the year 1895. This consisted of primary, principal, and high school rooms.

Mr. Maysilles had charge of the Clay Township High School for five years. During his term, among many others, the following persons were in his classes: E. C. Worman, internationally known for his Y. M. C. A. educational work in India; Howard A. Worman, prominent real estate man in Cleveland; Carries Worman an efficient dietitian in charge of hospital work; Chester Spitler, practicing physician in Middletown; S. A. Dunkle, Grace Duckwall, Tina Grace Rasor, Mina and Pearl Mishler, Howard Klepinger, Viola, Eltha, Carl, and Valeria Mills, Lester and Edna Johns, Reuben Kock, Carrie and Frank Shoe, A. M. Myers and Geo. H. Robbins, Charles Shafer, and Carrie Mishler, the latter two deceased.

The Clay Township High School continued until 1899 when it was transferred to Brookville.

The grade school, however, has continued to exist until the present time, and has three teachers employed: principal, intermediate, and primary.

The following are the teachers who taught in the three-room building: A. A. Maysilles, B. F. Shoe, Grace Coffman, Shellay Caylor, Erma Mishler, Chester Spitler, Jesse Albert, C. D. Rasor, Lula Linder, Florence Mummert, Geneva Welbaum, Mildred Manning, Esther Wenger, Riley Shue, Lauren Beck, Freda Rasor, Orrel Allen, Lillian Smith, Lula Miller, Maude Weidel, Agnes Somers, Thelma Ditmer, Myrtle Boomershine, and Monette Somers.

During these years quite a number of pupils received instruction which led them to prepare for the following professions: Teachers, preachers, doctors, lawyers, and college professors.

Brookville Special

By Carrie Baker Tucker and W. W. Helwig

As stated in the Clay Township history, the third school building was erected in Section 34, possibly as early as 1825, and was located just east

of Liberty Corner. This log building was vacated about 1850 and a brick building erected on the Liberty Corner site, which is still standing.

This served as a schoolhouse for District No. 4, including the village of

Brookville. Subscription schools were conducted from time to time in the village, because of the distance to the Liberty building. Here the usual pioneer experiences were met, and difficulties were overcome in the usual hardy American way. Water was carried in wooden pails and the pupils drank from gourds or dippers. For a number of years the only available well was a distance of one-half mile. Sometimes the children drank from a little spring that trickled from the west bank of Wolf Creek, in what is now the Gish Grove. At this writing there are a number of people who remember having attended the Liberty Corner School.

A number of families settled in the hamlet of Dodson, because railroad activities centered at the junction of the Dayton Union and the Pennsylvania Railways, and the Brookville population having increased considerably, the Township Board of Education erected a two-story, four-room building one-half mile south of Liberty Corner, to accommodate the children of District No. 4. Part of the building was ready to occupy in 1868 and a deed was recorded in 1869. In a few years the patrons petitioned to be set off from the Township Schools and under a new law this district became known as Brookville Special. But three rooms were used at first, the fourth room being occupied in the late seventies.

The first teacher as principal of the new school was a Mr. Grabill, followed by Studibaker, Sanger, Hiller, Minnich, Vaughan, Minnich, and Fox. At this period, 1888, Mr. Fox established an organized high school.

Secure in the memory of many successful indviduals are the names of devoted grade teachers, the Misses Anna and Elizabeth Share, Miss Osborne, Miss Reed, Misses Orilla and Helen Bryant, Alice Cusick, Minnie Smith, Ruth Voorhees, Amanda Wilson, Mrs. S. A. Minnich, Etta Thompson, Rose Conner, Alex. Campbell, John Leasure, Dr. W. H. Riley, Silas Fox, O. F. Dillman, H. E. Lesh, and others.

Within a few years the new school attracted many young men and women who wished to prepare for teaching or other professions and sometimes the entire advanced class, as it was then called, was composed of young teachers. From that early date to the beginning of the present industrial period the Brookville Schools continued to turn out a very high percentage of teachers. For three summer seasons Brookville Special was used as a normal school. In the group pictured on opposite page are instructors, Dr. Minnich, Wilbur Kennedy, Attorney, T. S. Fox, and W. W. Helwig.

Many of the teachers mentioned above have passed the last great test and grasses are growing over their graves and perchance a rose tree marks the spot more definitely, but the grass grows greener, and the rose bloom is sweeter because of the sacred memories retained by their boys and girls.

Some of the families that were represented in the school and that had a great deal of influence in maintaining an interest in higher education were as follows: Somers, Fox, Dilts, Share, Voorhess, Toman, Baker, Mundhenk, Connor, Overholser, Detwiler, Riley, Bryant, Marshall, Brown, Smith, Rasor, and other families.

When Brookville Village was formed in 1894, the Special Board continued the high school course, Mr. Lon Disher being the first superintendent. He was followed by Mr. Coblentz, Dr. A. C. Baker, and W. W. Helwig. It was deemed best to discontinue the high school at this time and all pupils

were sent to Brookville Village. Some of the graduates at this time were Supt. Chas. Myers, George and Walter Share, Martin Weaver, and Gertrude Myers.

Brookville Special as a Four-room Building. A Picture of One of the Normal Schools Held by S. A. Minnich, T. S. Fox, W. W. Helwig, and Mr. Kennedy.

Ebenezer Rural School District

Not until the twenty-first day of August, 1923, was there a legal district known as the "Ebenezer Rural School District," deriving its name from an old church and hamlet which are centrally located in the territory. The old church was abandoned a few years ago and a beautiful new one erected across the road by the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The new edifice was christened, Victory Church.

Just prior to the birth of the new district a majority of the qualified electors residing in that part of Harrison Township, lying between Stillwater and Great Miami Rivers, felt that the time had come, "when in the course of human events," that they should courageously come forward and affix their signatures to a petition addressed to the Board of Education of Montgomery County, praying that they be established as a free and independent school district, endowed with all the rights and privileges of the mother township, and that they assume among the districts of the county the separate and equal station to which the statutes of Ohio entitle them. Thus they, in order to form a more perfect school unit, establish justice to the taxpayer, insure a homogeneous neighborhood, provide for a centralized school, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of a liberal education for their children and their children's children forever, did so petition the Board of Education of Montgomery County. (The writer hereby acknowledges his indebtedness to Thomas Jefferson and the authors of the Constitution of the United States for their foresight into modern conditions.)

Being convinced that these worthy petitioners were sincere in their motives, the County Board of Education established the new district in accordance with the provisions of Section 4736 of the General Code of Ohio on the date mentioned above and appointed a board of education to direct the affairs of the district. The board thus appointed consisted of Rev. O. J. Bilger and Messrs. J. T. Fitzsimmons, F. R. Wagner, Earl Beardshear, and Paul Cromer. More than a year had passed when Mr. Cromer and later Rev. Bilger moved out of the district and the vacancies thus made were filled by Mr. Harry Kline and Mr. J. E. Peters.

Mr. Joseph Ross and Mr. Samuel Wick were successful candidates for membership on the board in the election of 1925 and entered upon their duties in the following January.

The first board could only plan for the future, as it did not take over the schools until after the close of school in May of 1924. Thus, having no funds to set their house in order, the clerk, J. T. Fitzsimmons, paid all of the necessary expenditures from his personal account.

We shall return again to recent accounts, but for the present our attention is called to the days when schools were new in the forests.

In the year 1816 a schoolhouse was built and a school opened in the woods near a spring in the central part of Section 10 of Harrison Township. Its first teacher was William Cox. The school was taught later by Robert Mercer. The branches taught were Reading, Writing, and Pike's Arithmetic. Tuition charges were $1.50 per pupil per quarter and there were 160 scholars in the district. One of the chief requisites of a teacher was the ability to make a good quill pen. The teacher would "set a copy" for each individual

pupil on a sheet of foolscap paper. This was an excellent method, but very slow. Later Geography was introduced by the drawing of State and county maps, which in time was followed by Mitchell's Geography. Other texts introduced at various times were Stoddard's Arithmetic, Pinneo's Grammar, an Elementary Speller, and Saunders' Readers. The dictionary preceded the Speller. In all these early schools "good manners" was a required subject, as the lessons fell directly from the lips of the "master." Most of the other subjects were elective.

In the year 1820 a schoolhouse was erected by the citizens of the township near the location of the one just mentioned above. It was constructed of round logs, puncheon floor, clapboard roof, greased paper for window panes, and hewed logs for seats. It had a seating capacity for forty pupils.

The district extended over the same territory that the Ebenezer District now includes.

Each teacher brought with him his own methods of teaching and laid down his rules. The teachers were a Mr. Belchion, Miss Tryphenia Lindsley, and a Mr. Mitchel.

About the year 1835 a new one-room brick schoolhouse which seated eighty pupils was erected on a half-acre lot known as the "Old Green Field." This field was surrounded by forests. When it became known that the trustees of the school had paid the enormous sum of ten dollars for the lot, it was the subject of common gossip and the trustees were marked as unworthy spendthrifts.

One cold evening as the schoolmaster left his throne, he thoughtfully provided for the next day by piling his kindling on the stove to dry. While enjoying his evening meal at the home of a patron of the school whose turn it was to board and lodge the teacher, it was discovered that the sky was lighted by a conflagration which closed the school for the season. Another school building was erected on the same foundation, with the addition of an extra recitation room. Mr. Levi Burk taught this school for seven years and "boarded round," as his predecessors had done. Other teachers were Messrs. Butterfield, Espy, Forgy, Warrel, Dyer, Foot, Colvin, Newman, Stockmyre, Kincaid, Green, and Mrs. Mary Jane (Holt) Lindsey.

In the year 1880 the district was divided and the old schoolhouse was sold. To take its place there were built a two-room building on Needmore Road and a two-story two-room building at Ebenezer. The latter was abandoned in 1907 and two two-room buildings were erected to take its place, one at the corner of Troy Pike and Neff Road and the other at the corner of Troy Pike and Smith Road. The former has been remodeled and later a temporary building erected on a lot adjoining the original tract. Eight teachers are now necessary to supply this school.

Early teachers in the Needmore Road School were Messrs. Conway, O'Neil, Patterson, Smith, and Kefauver. Several of the teachers at Ebenezer were Messrs. Davison, O'Neil, Kennedy, Smith, Mrs. Mary Lindsley, and Miss Nora Stoker. Thus we have returned to the history of more recent years.

The growth of the City of Dayton encouraged real estate promoters and home builders to plat a large part of the district. This in turn increased the school population to the extent that it was necessary for the community

1. The old school in center of Section 10.
2. 11-A School.
3. 11-B School.
4. Beardshear School.

to take some formal action to secure more adequate school facilities. The first step, as previously explained, was to create a separate school district.

The community willingly voted the Board of Education the authority to issue bonds to the extent of $110,000 with which to purchase a site and erect a new building and an extra three mills for operating expenses. No finer tribute could be offered a community than to record such facts. Should faith not fail, this excellent spirit will produce a school system second to none of its kind in the county. The district will soon enjoy a new modern Junior High School Building, which is now under construction.

The following teachers have taught in the district in recent years: Messrs. Glen Frye, Vernon Parsons, C. D. Grove, Clifford Weeks, John A. Shell, Claude Senseman, Leonard Wilson, P. E. Wellbaum, U. E. Erbaugh, Melvin Stauffer, Bernard Landis, Luther Lauver, and Vernon E. Fries, instructor in Music, and the Misses Marie Teeter, Maud Rollman, Ella Van Cleve, Cora Rosnagle, Nora Stoker, Mary Thomas, Caroline Neff, Helen Landis, Mattie Wilkins, Dora Class, Marie Shroyer, Bertha Coy, Beatrice Jones, Ruth Fries, Mary Anna Clingman, Jane DePriest, Margaret Borchers, Josephine Albert, Frieda Bundenthal, Irene Weeks, Aldah Nietert, Pearl Hagan, Helen Dover, Gwendolyn Weeks, Helen Gibson, Constance Erbaugh, Caroline Erbaugh, Alice Ellis, and the Mistresses Della Seger, Minnie Jackson, Mary Fries, Delilah Wikle, Ella Bradford, Urma Weeks, and Mrs. Otwell, wife of a local Methodist minister. The superintendents who have served the schools of this community are the late O. P. Swartzel; D. W. Klepinger, who has retired from the profession, and J. H. Propst, who now directs the schools. County Superintendent A. A. Maysilles has assisted the district very much in its organization and bond issue.

For many of the above facts the writer is indebted to Mrs. Mary Jane (Holt) Lindsley, who has been mentioned as one of the early teachers and who still resides in the district. The Ebenezer schools are further honored by having as one of their most efficient teachers, Miss Ella Van Cleve, a relative of Benjamin Van Cleve, who taught the first school in Montgomery County in the old Block House in the year 1799. Miss Van Cleve is one of those teachers whose pupils ever remember her as a benefactor and friend.

The writer is cognizant of the fact that in this district, as well as in other parts of the county, the history of education would be incomplete without mention of the training offered by the churches of the community. It is difficult to teach even the rudiments of human behavior to a non-religious people. Religious training carries with it a decent respect for law and order, which are as essential in the schoolroom as in a great metropolis. The education furnished by those worthy ministers of the gospel was not secular in type, but of a richer sort that tones up the deeper senses of man as he goes about his life's work. It gives him hope and vision to undertake greater things for the welfare of humanity. These local churches have taught the meaning of "faith, hope, and love" and the desire to live for an accessible goal, without which man drifts about in the sea of life like a ship without a rudder. May it suffice to say that the Church's contribution to education cannot be estimated.

New Ebenezer Building Under Construction.

EBENEZER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Upper Row, left to right—Harry Kline, Earl Beardshear.
Lower Row, left to right—Samuel Wick, Joseph Ross, J. T. Fitzsimmons.

A History of Twin Valley Schools (Germantown)

In April, 1802, when the people occupying the region now known as Ohio were granted permission by Congress to form a constitution and State government, section sixteen in each township was reserved for the use of schools. In so doing, it was contemplated to make education in Ohio free to all, and to make the schools open to rich and poor alike.

In accordance with this provision, the legislature set out immediately to make arrangements to provide education for all. It did so by providing, through special agents, for the leasing of school lands throughout the State, with a view to the application of the profits derived therefrom to the maintenance of the schools. The boards of township trustees were appointed to lease the lands, and to apply the proceeds to the education of the youth. However, no provision was made for taxation to supplement this aid in case the revenues from lands were insufficient for these purposes. Such a law was not passed until 1821. As a result, the school lands were unproductive. Teachers' salaries had to be paid and schoolhouses had to be built out of the funds received from voluntary contributions. This was especially the case in Twin Valley, where the schools resolved themselves into mere subscription schools. The section of land which belongs to German Township is located in Jefferson Township and is section twenty-one.

The first schoolhouse in German Township was erected on the south side of Stump's Hill, by William Eastwood, a squatter, who occupied it as a dwelling. It was built of rude logs. The first teacher in it was Rev. A. S. Man, who also has the distinction of being the first teacher in Twin Valley. The second schoolhouse stood on the Franklin pike, a short distance from the present site of Sunsbury. It was likewise built of logs, and for a long time the meager one room received its only light through paper windows, glass being too expensive. The teacher of this building, McNamar, who later became a United Brethren preacher, lived in a garret room in the schoolhouse.

The teachers of this period were for the most part men of very inferior ability. Their general habit was to teach about three months, and then loaf, and spree away their cash. Having done this, they would disappear, and repeat the same process in some other community. It is owing to this fact of their wandering disposition that we know so little about these first teachers of our vicinity. They were able to teach only the rudiments of the very lowest branches of the common school education. When we add to this the fact that the schools were in operation only about three months out of the twelve, we can see that the pupils could only get the most meager kind of an education, even under the best conditions.

Soon after the village of Germantown was laid out, schools were erected within its limits, the first one being on the lot next to the Reformed Church, on the east side. Another building was erected somewhat later, and stood on Mulberry Street, on the present site of the home of Henry Bear. In these two buildings the children of the village were taught until 1847. In the meantime small schools were being erected throughout the country, outside the town, as the growing needs demanded.

These two buildings were sold in 1846, and the proceeds used to build a large union school, which is still standing, although not used for educational purposes. It had its advantages over the previous buildings, in that all the children of the town were collected and taught in different rooms.

The changing of the school laws in 1860 brought a complete reorganization of all schools, and as a result they were placed under the supervision of six directors. This resulted in the erection of what, to us, is spoken of as "The Old Building," an imposing three-story brick structure located on a promontory, situated in the northern section of the town, and which served to promote the educational opportunities of the youth of the community from 1861 to 1923, a period of more than half a century. As has been stated before, the building was three stories high, had four rooms on each floor, twelve in all, a rotunda in the center connecting all the rooms, and two side wings for staircases. Its cost of erection was $17,000.

It might be interesting to call to your attention some of the items of a course of study that was in operation during the early days: Spelling and Defining, Reading, Penmanship, Mental and Written Arithmetic, English Grammar and Analysis, Geography, History and Map Drawing, Declamation, Chemistry, Algebra, Geometry, Plane and Spherical, Surveying, Vocal Music, Bookkeeping, Latin, Greek, if class of five desired it.

The requirements for graduation were: Age, not less than fifteen. Passing grade, not less than 75 percent. Certain subjects were also required for graduation, ten in all. The diplomas issued were first, second, and third class, according to the studies taken. This practice started as far back as 1858.

In 1869-1870 the members of the Germantown High School organized an editorial staff, with a view toward publishing a semi-monthly periodical. The result of their efforts was the publishing of a little book called "The

Gleaners." A rather humorous article which appeared in the February 25, 1870, number of this periodical follows:

"Our superintendent, Mr. Temple, to whom we are indebted for the excellent course of study adopted into the school, has been contemplating the addition of gymnastics, in the form of dancing, an important branch of polite education."

Another bit of interest is the fact that the Germantown High School had the first graduating class in Montgomery County, outside of the City of Dayton. This was in the year 1870. In 1873 diplomas were granted only to those who read essays at Commencement.

In 1875 the school was given over to the teachers of Montgomery County, to be used for the Annual County Teachers' Institute. The honor was later transferred to the schools of Dayton.

Many years have come and gone since this old school was built, fifty-one glasses graduated from its austere walls, and many incidents have taken

place which perhaps the old brick walls alone remain to tell. However, the old building could not retain its usefulness forever, and in November, 1922, it came time when the residents of Germantown were to cast their votes to decide whether or not they were to have that much needed and long looked for necessity—a new school building. Several agencies helped make this building a reality, the pupils themselves, the teachers, and the Mothers' Club. By co-operation and by using a variety of methods, they caused the community to recognize the need for a new building and as a result the vote polled was 730 "Yes" and 104 "No"—another big victory for Germantown.

A plot of ground adjoining the old building was purchased, and on it was erected the present modern two-story, red brick building at a cost of $150,000.

The new building was ready for occupancy in September, 1923. Many of the modern improvements of school architecture are included in the present structure, which contains an electric clock system, with a clock in each classroom connected with and regulated by the master clock in the superintendent's office, and four circuits of bells which govern the changing of classes, one circuit for the upper four grades, one for the lower four, one for the high school, and one for the outside bells. A call system was also installed whereby the bell in any room could be rung, and by an understood code the teacher may send a pupil to the office or come herself, as the instance requires. The clocks and bells operate by electricity and may be turned off during vacation.

Other points of interest in the grade rooms are the lighting, which is adequate and properly located, and two cupboards in each room, one to be used as a library and the other for supplies, and the modern cloak rooms, which are really a part of the classroom, yet can be shut off and are separately ventilated in order to insure the proper amount of humidity in the room.

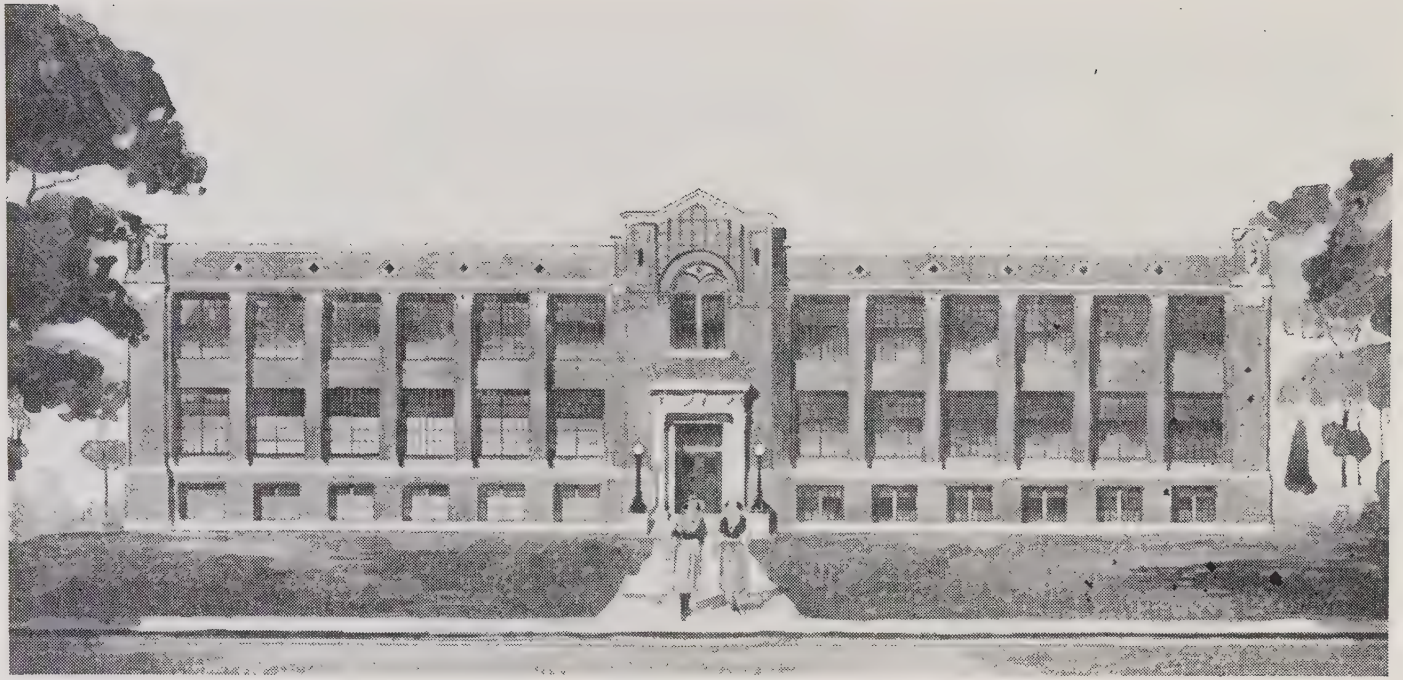
The floors in the halls are of marble, while those in the less used portions of the buildings are composition or wood. Smoke doors and enclosed stair walls make the building fireproof. The building is comfortably heated, even in the coldest weather by seven hot-air furnaces, which furnish fresh as well as hot air, thus providing a thoroughly healthful ventilating system. A hot-water boiler in the basement supplies the building with hot water for showers and for the cooking laboratories. Modern plumbing throughout the building is already installed and will be ready for use when a sewage disposal plan is arranged for by the village.

A large and beautiful auditorium seating 560 is one of the attractive places in the building, and visitors always comment upon the beauty of this room, which furnishes a center for all community and school activities such as lyceum courses, school music and dramatics, Parent-Teachers Associations, and commencement programs. The stage is suitable for the presentation of even rather difficult plays and the handsome curtains add color and harmony to the other appointments of the auditorium. Above the rear entrance is a booth accommodating two moving picture machines.

Beneath the auditorium is the gymnasium, the center of the athletic and health activities of the school. A balcony on one side enables 300 spectators to witness, without obstruction to their view, games and contests which are being performed on the gymnasium floor below. Both grade and high school children utilize the gymnasium. At one end are located the boys' shower and locker rooms, while at the other are located the girls' shower and locker rooms.

The high school is provided with completely equipped chemistry and physics laboratories, the former accomodating 64 pupils and the latter 24.

In the basement is located the Home Economics Department and the cafeteria, which is under the management of the Home Economics teacher. A cooking laboratory provides an opportunity for the girls to concoct many appetizing and delicious dishes. A complete dinner service also permits them to cook and serve actual family meals. The cooking laboratory is utilized by the cafeteria, which is furnished with vitrolite tables, a steam table,



New Building at Germantown, Erected in 1923 at a Cost of $150,000.

chocolate urn, and electric bread slicer. Balanced and tasty menus are served to the pupils at cost. The prices are low enough so that all pupils are able to have at least one hot dish every day.

The sewing laboratory is a busy place, and girls may be seen basting and planning dresses and other wearing apparel on the long sewing tables, or stitching busily at the machines. A fitting room adjoins the larger room and serves as a supply and storeroom for the department.

In the basement are situated the Manual Arts rooms, consisting of a tool and supply room and a larger class laboratory, now being utilized by the Smith-Hughes Agriculture Department for its Farm Shop Course.

The high school is housed in a larger study hall seating 160 pupils. Located at the side of the study hall are the boys' and girls' locker rooms, between which is the library. This convenient arrangement permits one instructor to oversee both the study hall and the library.

During the past three years in the new building the Germantown schools, under the supervision of Supt. O. S. Weaver, have made rapid strides toward the highest educational standards. The school is now recognized as one of the first grade. It is a member of the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and has been recommended by the State Department as one of the best schools of its type. The curriculum offers a wide range and choice of subjects, some forty-one academic subjects being included, as well as extra curricular activities in music, physical education, literary and debate work, athletics, and home project work.

In September, 1924, a Smith-Hughes Home Economics Department was instituted, thus securing a teacher of home economics for eleven months of the year, instead of nine. During the summer months the teacher supervises practical home projects of the girls, such as canning, redecorating, and refurnishing a room, or making clothes for a member of the family.

In September, 1925, a Smith-Hughes Agricultural Department was installed with the same provisions as were in operation for the Smith-Hughes Home Economics Department. Innovations which came with this department are a Short Course on Tractors and Gasoline Engines for the men of the community, and the organization of the German Township Spray Company, composed of boys in the department and with men of the village as stockholders. Approximately one thousand trees have already been sprayed. These two departments represent a saving of over two thousand dollars to the town each year, since the State pays one-half of each teacher's salary, as well as an initial reimbursement of $300 by the State Department because equipment in the local school was promptly installed.

The Music Department has been steadily improving. A Junior Orchestra for the younger musicians serves as a training school to prepare the less experienced pupils for the more advanced work of the Senior Orchestra. Early in October our orchestra, consisting of thirty-two pieces, presented a musical program for a Sunday afternoon Y. M. C. A. lobby program. Other special events were an Indian operetta, "The Feast of the Red Corn," special Christmas programs, as well as musical numbers for all school activities. In order to facilitate the work of this department a musical instructor was provided three days a week, instead of two, thus allowing sufficient time for

two periods of music per week for each grade and time for chorus, glee club, orchestra, and contest work.

Recognizing the importance of a complete, uniform, and accurate system of records, the most modern form of these, a visible file index system, has been in use in the grades for the past three years, and during the present year in the high school. These preserve the cumulative attendance, scholarship, and achievement record of the pupil and enable more effective treatment of individual differences, and likewise provide for an accurate knowledge of school conditions.

In connection with the records a modern standardized grading system, such as has been recently adopted by the Ohio State Department in the new High School Standards, was established, so that pupils and parents would know more exactly how the child's work ranked in comparison with the work of the class as a whole.

To keep in line with current educational practices, two moving picture machines were purchased with school funds and educational movies shown to the boys and girls. All the departments of the school have found this type of visual education most beneficial in presenting various aspects of the work.

Another important change which occurred in the fall of 1923 was when the Mothers' Club became a Parent-Teachers Association and affiliated with the National Parent-Teachers Association. This organization has always been active for the best interests of the school and has provided the furnishings for two rest rooms, dishes for the cafeteria, library tables, and gymnasium apparatus, so that the children would have a better equipped school.

Cognizant, however, that the chief aim of the school is to prepare its pupils for citizenship, and that the teacher is the greatest factor in this process, every opportunity was employed to secure the most effective setting for the teacher's work, and to provide adequate stimulation for her best efforts. Therefore, a constructive plan of supervision whereby the teacher is helped by a frank criticism of both the good and bad points of her work, with suggestions for the continuation of the excellent features and the elimination of, or the substitution of a better practice for the wrong methods, was inaugurated. Thus the standard of teaching throughout the system was raised. In order to encourage teachers to continue their training, a special increase in salary was granted to those who went to summer school. Also once a month during the winter a professional teachers' meeting was held, and an interesting and valuable outline and score card are the result of these meetings. The teachers pooled their educational books and one classroom was used as a teachers' library, a place where teachers could refer to current educational books and magazines. Reading circle books were also discussed by the teachers, and one result of the increased professionalism of the teachers is that there is a 100 percent membership of the teaching staff in sectional and State teachers' associations. Short courses on "The Psychology and Teaching of Reading" and "The Teaching of Penmanship" were given the teachers by the superintendent. These constructive means were effective in providing a higher type of instruction for the pupils. But as the teacher must have the proper tools with which to work, standardized tests, both in intelligence and in school subjects, were given, so that the teacher could better understand and diagnose the individual difficulties of pupils. Later

tests showed great improvement in the speed and comprehension of the pupils in reading. These tests also showed that some superior children were capable of doing more advanced work, so upon the teachers' suggestion and the parents' consent, a number of children were given extra-promotion.

The number of failures, which are a total educational waste, was decreased, thus saving the community a considerable amount by these two devices. More supplementary reading material was provided for the children, so that now each grade has from five to fifteen sets of supplementary readers, depending upon the grade, for more readers are needed by the smaller children. Great care was exercised in the selection of these readers and due significance given to the fact that character and moral education are influenced by the content of the literature which children read.

An increased interest in literary work was stimulated by the organization of the high school into two literary societies, the Aurora and the La Fidel. The freshmen, however, are given a thorough course in debate and declamation in a special coach class taught by the English and Public Speaking teachers, and are thus prepared to enter into the senior societies at the end of their freshman year. As a consequence of this training during the past three years, quite a number of gold and silver medals have come to Germantown.

The gymnasium in the new building has made it possible to have physical training for both boys and girls. In co-operation with the county health authorities there has been an increased effort to improve the health of the pupils, and already the beneficial results of this campaign can be noted. Health examinations, hot, healthful lunches, proper physical exercises, and moving pictures all have contributed to the better physical well-being of the pupils. Athletics have had their place in school affairs. Football, basket ball, and baseball teams are organized, which play the teams of surrounding high schools and compete in the county tournaments. The aim has been to have many boys participate in athletics, rather than to concentrate the training upon a select few who make the teams. Ours has not always been the winning team, but they have exemplified the best ideals of sportsmanship and fair play at all times.

The social side of the pupils' lives has not been neglected, and at various class parties, dramatic and musical entertainments, or school programs, the children have been learning how to work together, to be considerate of the rights of others, to be independent and self-confident, to have poise, and to be at ease in public.

Thus the complex activities of modern school life provide a well rounded education for the boys and girls. Under the leadership and guidance of a capable, trained supervisor and in daily contact with teachers of fine moral character and high scholarship, the pupils learn to appreciate the dignity of work, the joy of play, the satisfaction of accomplishment, the need for the best of one's talents in any endeavor.

Through the years the schoolhouse has looked down from the hill over the village of Germantown and has seen many changes. It too has changed with the altered life about it. Yet it still stands, ever ready to serve the community by training the boys and girls in the privileges and duties of citizenship.

School History of German Township

"It was not until 1821 that a law was passed authorizing taxation for school purposes, and, as for some years the school lands were comparatively unproductive, teachers' salaries had to be paid and schoolhouses had to be built by means of volunteer contributions. This was particularly the case in German Township. The schools were here for many years simply subscription schools. There was originally a school section in German Township, but it was sold, and section 21, Jefferson Township, was purchased with the proceeds. The first schoolhouse in German Township stood on the south side of Stump's Hill. It was a log structure and had orginally been erected by William Eastwood, a squatter from Kentucky, who occupied it as a dwelling. The first teacher who taught in it, and who was probably the pioneer teacher of the township, was the Rev. A. S. Mau. The second schoolhouse stood on the Franklin Pike, a short distance beyond the present site of Sunbury. Like the other, it was built of logs, and for a long time received its light through greased-paper windows, glass being too expensive. To this school the children came from three or four miles distance. The first teacher's name was John McNamar, who later became a United Brethren preacher. He lived in a garret in the schoolhouse. He was succeeded by Jacob Lesley, a Kentuckian. The teachers of this early period were men generally of inferior ability, and were able to teach nothing more than the merest rudiments of the lower branches of a common-school education. Add to this that the schools were in operation but three months out of twelve, and it will readily be seen that the children could not learn very much."—History of Montgomery County, 1882.

About the year 1870 an acre of land was purchased from Henry Moses. Here was built the Moses' Schoolhouse, one mile north of Germantown. At that time there was an attendance of about forty pupils. The members of the board at the time of the erection of the present building were S. S. Clark, Geo. Zellers, Sr., and Jacob Stevens. Up to the Civil War there had never been a lady teacher employed in the district. As the men were forced into the army, it became necessary to employ a lady. Mary A. Ireland was the first. The board, thinking it unnecessary to pay her the same wages as the men, lowered the salary, the result being that at the end of the term a surplus remained in the treasury. She was then employed to teach a summer term. Mrs. Ireland is now living on South Main Street, Germantown, and enjoys talking of her schooldays. In 1915, the average attendance was not sufficient to keep the school in session; therefore, by a resolution of the township board, the school was closed and the pupils transferred to the Germantown school.

The State Road District is located at the mid-point of the township. The original log schoolhouse was situated about twenty rods north of the present school grounds. About 1840, a half-acre of land was purchased from a Mr. Seeman, on which a brick schoolhouse was built. In the year 1871, the present building was erected on the same site. The school directors were Abraham Stiver, Abe Clark, and Jacob Penrod. The bricks for the building were purchased from and the building constructed by, Christopher Deckant. The stone bearing the name of the district and the date of

erection was purchased by the board for ten dollars. In 1880, another half-acre was purchased from Solomon Zech. One of the early teachers of the school was Jacob Slifer, a great-grandfather of one of the pupils now attending the school. Michael Hensel, now a resident of Preble County, taught in the district in 1872. He later was elected to the State Senate.

About one hundred yards east of the present Shaffer Schoolhouse there stood a log structure which was the first school building in District No. 13. The foundation of this building can still be located by a mound of earth and stone. It was built probably in the year 1800. According to available records it was the first schoolhouse in the township west of Germantown. The water used by the pupils was gotten from a near-by spring. About 1840, a half-acre of land was secured by gift from the Isaac Shaffer farm. The old building was then vacated and a new one erected on the newly-acquired site. This building was of brick. The foundation of this building is still marked by the early perishing of the grass during the summer, in dry season. The average attendance was about sixty. In 1870, finding the building and grounds inadequate, another half-acre of land was purchased from the Shaffer farm. A new brick, the present building, was erected in 1871. This school is well attended. We wish to add, by the way of historical importance, that County Superintendent C. W. Plessinger taught in this building.

In the fall and winter of 1892 and 1893, the schools of Brown's Run and District No. 14 were so crowded that, in some instances, teachers would send some of the smaller children home to make room for those of the upper grades. The distance between the two schools was about four miles. The roads were very poor, and many children were forced to walk through fields and woods, which was very disagreeable in bad weather. February 20, 1894, Jacob Kiefer, John Perry, and John Moyer met in the strip-shed of Mr. Moyer. The subject of schools was discussed. Mr. Kiefer and Mr. Perry were very much dissatisfied because their children were being sent home from Brown's Run School. It was suggested that a joint district could probably be formed. A township map was consulted and lines were drawn inclosing the proposed district. A petition was circulated in that territory. There was a special session of the township board. The petition was favorably received. At the regular meeting in April it was learned that a number of the petitioners were residents of Gratis Township, Preble County. A building committee from the two township boards met April 21, 1894. A site was selected. The plans were drawn by G. M. Huffman. The building was completed that fall, at a cost of one thousand dollars. As the land was a part of the John W. Moyer farm, the school has since born that name. School was opened October 1, with twenty-four pupils. Miss Beatrice Schaeffer, from Germantown, was the first teacher.

The Bickel District was created about 1881. The school term was seven months. The salaries then ranged from forty to forty-five dollars per month. The building was destroyed by fire in 1900, rebuilt in 1901.

In 1833, at the present location, a tract of 30.3 square rods was purchased from Abraham Hetzler for the first school building in District No. 11, for a consideration of five dollars. The school directors at the time were Samuel Werkley, John Kerchner, and George Keister. There is a difference of opinion as to whether the first building was a frame or a log structure.

Inside the building there were boards arranged in a slanting position, fastened around the wall, at which those who could write and "cipher" sat facing the wall. The heating stove was in the middle of the room, around which were benches for the smaller children. Some of the benches were without backs. In the northeast corner was the teacher's desk and chair. There was a big switch in the corner, behind the teacher's desk. In the southwest corner was a bench to hold the pupils' lunch-baskets and a pail of water. School was held for a term of three months a year. The first teacher was David Krauss. In 1861, the old building was replaced by a neat brick. The directors at that time were Lewis Hetzler, Daniel Hetzler, and Isaac Hetzler. In 1898, this building was torn down and the present one constructed. The Hetzler School has produced fourteen teachers, two college professors, two ministers, one doctor, and one missionary to China.

Teachers: Isaac Harris, Sarah Harris, John Hetzler, Ida Hetzler, Emma Zimmerman, Chas. Zimmerman, Edwin Hetzler, Helen Hetzler, Alice Hetzler, Sylvester Hetzler, Raymond Albright, Henry Whitehead, Helen Swartzel, and Pauline Ankeney.

Professors: John Ankeney and George Pritchard.

Ministers: Charles Hetzler and Samuel Keister.

Doctor: W. Hetzler.

Missionary: Sylvia Hetzler Anspach.

The oldest teacher living is Mary Shuey, Germantown.

The first Brown's Run schoolhouse was a log building that stood on the Oxford Road, opposite the George Hoffman farm. It was built in the early part of the nineteenth century. This building was replaced by another log structure that stood north of the present site, near the old cemetery. It was used until 1862, when it became too small, and a new building, the present one, was erected. There was some trouble in naming this school. Some wanted to call it the Judy, others the Hetzler School. Finally, it became known as the Judy or Brown's Run School.

An old school record of this district, the first entry being made December 10, 1838, now in the possession of Harry Judy, contains some interesting information, as the following will illustrate:

"Mr. Jacob Shuey please to pay the bearer, Thomas F. Hall, the sum of thirty dollars for thirty days' teaching in District No. 12, German Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, and this shall be your receipt for the same by the order of the directors, this the second day of March, Eighteen Hundred and Forty-two.

Henry Ludy, Clerk.
Henry Geeting."

Another entry: "The Householders of the 12 School District in German tp Montgomery co Ohio met on the 12 Day of April 1852 and went in to the Election of the Bord of Officers whereas it appears that John Fouts was Elected for the Term of three years for Director and David Smith for one year as clerk and Lewis Poffinbarger for one year as Tresure All of which was Duley qualified.

David Smith."

The records show that the following taught in this school: Thomas Wilson, Thomas F. Hall, Daniel Duckwall, Isaac Slifer, Jacob Oldfather,

Joseph White, Isaac Harris, George Moyer, Thomas Johnson, A. M. Eckert, and several whose names we could not decipher.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

The time of founding the Sunbury District was about 1830. At first the school had only a few scholars, as the village of Sunbury was very small. The building was a crude affair. It was remodeled about twenty years later as the attendance increased. In a few years a small room was added for the teaching of the primary grades. The compensation then was never less than forty dollars a month. This was increased until it was one hundred thirty dollars. In 1896, the building was destroyed by fire, and the present structure was erected. It has one room and is constructed of brick with a slate roof. Later the special district was created. During these years the attendance had increased to sixty pupils, which was too much for one teacher. Arrangements were made with the Germantown Board whereby the pupils were transferred to that school. The number of teachers who taught this school from its founding to 1920, is eighteen. In 1900, W. H. Vandervere was appointed to succeed Chas. Myers, the latter having discontinued the profession to resume the study of law. In 1902, Mr. Vandervere declined a re-appointment to accept the principalship at Farmersville. The last teacher was Miss Rose Albright.

The Swartzel Special, southeast of Germantown, is situated in a rich agricultural region. The school has always been well attended, formerly employing two teachers, one of whom was Harris V. Bear, now Superintendent of Schools at Miamisburg, Ohio. The enrollment at present is fifty. The school is in charge of one teacher; but, if conditions continue as at present, provision will be made for an assistant.

According to the records, the Dry Run Special was created in 1909. The organization meeting was held August 2, 1909, consisting of William Askins, Jr., John Miller, LeRoy Kuhns, Charles Tickel, and Charles Ruebush. The first teacehr employed in the special was Harry Friend, at a salary of fifty-five dollars per month, with a week's vacation at Christmas, with pay.

SUPERVISION

May 9, 1907, a joint meeting of the boards of Miami and German Townships was held at the clerk's office, in Germantown, at eight o'clock P. M. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the employment of a superintendent for the two townships. S. M. Heitz, Principal of the high school, Germantown, was present and read an article written by the State School Commissioner, in which he urged supervision, either separately or jointly. Mr. Heitz spoke at length, clearly showing the advantages to be derived from supervision. At this meeting a motion was made by Mr. Leise that a superintendent be employed at a salary not to exceed $1,050, or fifty dollars for each school, there being twenty-one local districts in all. This motion was seconded by Flinspach. The roll call was as follows: Eck, yea; Leise, yea; Early (absent); Leisz, yea; Staley (absent); Seigel, yea; Lantis, yea; Lindemuh, yea; Kern, yea; Flinspach, yea. On motion they adjourned to meet in joint session at Miamisburg, May 23. Here A. A. Maysilles, Superintendent of Brookville Schools, met with the board and proposed to supervise the schools of Miami and German Townships, together with the township of

Clay and the village of Brookville each for the sum of $500 for the school year. A call of the yea and nay vote found the Miami Township board voting nay and the German Township board voting yea. After some discussion, on motion by Seigel, the German Township Board withdrew from the meeting. At the June meeting of the German Township Board, Mr. Maysilles was elected superintendent of the township schools, at a salary of $500. At the end of Mr. Maysilles' first year, the board reappointed him at a salary of $600, for a period of three years. On being appointed superintendent of the Brookville schools, Mr. Maysilles declined the superintendency of the German Township schools. A vote of thanks was tendered him for the efficient and highly satisfactory manner in which the schools were supervised.

Mr. S. M. Heitz succeeded Mr. Maysilles, holding the position for a period of seven years.

Mr. C. H. Carey followed Mr. Heitz, serving two years.

Mr. F. M. Staver, Superintendent of the Jefferson Township Schools, was appointed to succeed Mr. Carey. Mr. Staver served faithfully and efficiently for a period of eight years, resigning to accept a position with The Miami-Jacobs Business College, Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. W. H. Vandervere, of Farmersville, was appointed by the County Board to succeed Mr. Staver. Mr. Vandervere is the present incumbent.

A Retrospective Glance of the Schools of Harrison Township

In 1801 William King entered five hundred acres of land in Section 27, now West Third Street. In the King neighborhood lived Alexander McConnel, on whose farm a schoolhouse was standing in 1810, which had been placed there somewhat earlier. The "masters" of that early period, and in the order given, were: Abner Crothers, John King, and Robert McConnell. During the forties a school stood in Summer's woods, on the south side of Salem Road, opposite Five Oaks Avenue. Mr. Jacob Young, who is in the flower and book business with his daughter on North Main Street, reports that he attended school in the above-mentioned house at the age of six. A "master" by the name of Lotterbauch taught his first school and is reported to have been one of the old type who used the rod and dunce cap frequently. A favored son, however, once escaped the rod by replacing a rail which he had broken on the fence in front of the schoolhouse.

Instead of bringing a rail from home, as the "master" expected, he lifted one from his uncle's fence, which was much nearer the school. Mr. Young reports that the teacher left school at noon to take dinner with the Summers family across the road. On one such occasion a thunderstorm came up and he, being but six years of age, ran home to his mother. For such conduct he was compelled to sit on a stool with a dunce cap on for an hour or so. This gave him a hatred for school, from which he never recovered.

In 1882 there were thirteen brick schoolhouses in the township, two of which were two-room buildings. The one on the Troy Pike was two stories high.

The township school district is now somewhat less than half the size that it was then, forty-four years ago, and employs forty-five teachers. The district then employed thirteen teachers and the same territory now requires about one hundred fifty teachers.

John Calvin Bright taught the Ft. McKinley School (formerly called Poor Hook School) in 1867. He was at the youthful age of sixteen years at the time. It is said that he had enrolled in his school over sixty pupils, ages varying from six to thirty years. About half of the pupils could neither read nor write. Courses of study were limited largely to the three "R's." Other courses were elective.

More Recent Developments of Harrison Township Schools

Just about everything is now traced to the World War. Problems—political, social, industrial, and educational—seem to have had their conception at this period.

This appears to be none the less true of our Harrison Township schools. At the outbreak of the war, Ohio was recodifying her school laws (1914). This was called the Cox Code. Experts were called in from without the State. Much time and labor was expended in revising and improving our educational system. We do not know whether either of these factors contributed toward our township's school plans, but we do know that 1914 marks the beginning of a rapid expansion of our school system extending to the present time.

1. New Gym. at Fairview High School.
2. One of Four New Buildings in the Township.
3. Forest Park School.
4. Old Ft. McKinley Building.
5. Old Shiloh Building.
6. Old Westwood School Still Used.

The year 1914 found Harrison Township with grade schools at Shiloh, Fairview, Ft. McKinley, Westwood, No. 6 (now a part of Jefferson Township), and No. 9 (the present city pre-vocational school).

In 1915 a two-room school was built at Forest Park. One teacher, Miss Edna Uhrig was employed. In 1921, due to the rapid growth of this section, another teacher was added. In the year 1924-25 an addition of two rooms

was made. At the present time three teachers are on the staff: Mr. Roy Bowser, principal, Mrs. Cozy Y. Getter, and Miss Ada Stombarger.

The Shiloh School in 1914 employed three teachers, Miss Lucy Hall, one of those teachers, acting as principal. At the present time five teachers: Mr. Clifford Weeks, Miss Orpha Dadisman, Miss Versa Slyder, Miss Zulu Harvey, and Miss Catherine Whalley, are educating the children of this rapidly growing community. As a part of the program of expansion of the township, Shiloh now has a new school building of six rooms, located in an ideal spot, away from traffic, and at the same time close to the center of the most rapidly growing section of this district. The old schoolhouse, located on a busy corner, furnishes a fine place for community gatherings, socials, and programs.

The Westwood School in 1914 was a one-room brick building on Hoover Avenue, housing about sixty pupils. J. E. Sanger was teacher. In 1918 three teachers were employed and the building enlarged. It was found necessary to add another teacher in the following year and this was increased to five in 1923, with one of the teachers holding her classes in the basement of the Lutheran church. In 1924 there were seven teachers. During this year the first and second grades were in the basement of the church, while one of the other classes held its sessions in a near-by storeroom. At the present time there are nine teachers and 388 pupils. The new schoolhouse of six rooms is supplemented by the old building, where the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades are taught. The staff of teachers includes Miss Nellie Cloppert, principal, Russell Helstern, Lois Heiney, Gladys Carlier, Marguerite McClure, Mrs. Irma Weaver, Mrs. Mary Hamm, Thelma Eidemiller, and Gladys Hoel. Miss Cloppert has been principal of this school since 1920.

The Ft. McKinley School in 1914 contained four rooms, with four teachers. These teachers were: Ralph A. Etter, principal, Miss Alice Castle, Mrs. Flora Mumma, and Miss Myrtle Carmon. The first three of these teachers still remain in service. This is indeed a rare instance of teacher loyalty to one community. The type of work this principal and his teachers are doing would emphasize the importance of a longer tenure by the average teacher. There are now six teachers in the new six-room building located on a high plot of ground overlooking Ft. McKinley and the city of Dayton.

The Fairview grade school, which, in 1914, occupied the major portion of what is now the high school building, was principaled by Mr. J. M. Slonaker. He was aided in his work by three teachers. The growth of Dayton toward this school district was probably hastened by the flood of 1913. At any rate, each year from 1914 has shown a marked increase in the number of pupils. In the year 1918 Mr. Pearl Whitehead was made principal. This position he retained until he was made head of the Boy Scouts, which position he still occupies. In 1920 Mr. E. N. Fifer was placed in the principalship. With an ever increasing attendance, his task of administration was not an easy one. During one year it was found necessary to use a plan of half-day sessions in part of the grades.

In January of 1925 the new eight-room grade building on Fairview Avenue, just west of the old structure, was completed and at once the building was filled by the large enrollment of pupils. At the present time nine teachers are employed and this is soon to be increased.

FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

September 24, 1900, is the date of the organization of Fairview High School, then known as Harrison Township High School. Originally situated in a distinctly rural community, it has gradually grown into an urban high school. As late as 1914 it is noted that practically all parents of high school pupils were farmers. At the present time only three percent farm, while a large majority of parents are employed in the city of Dayton.

Had Rip Van Winkle slept but ten, instead of twenty years, in Upper Dayton View, he would have been greeted by even more amazing changes on his awakening. The past ten years have marked astonishing transformations in the immediate vicinity of the high school. What then were fertile farms are now subdivisions partially or entirely built up with a modern type of home. As an example, a cornfield of three years ago, within three minutes walk of the high school, is now a beautiful plat with one hundred and twenty-five new homes. An equal number are in the process of building.

With this rapid growth of the community it is not astonishing that the entire enrollment of the high school in 1914 was forty-three, the exact size of the 1926 graduating class. The present freshman class is over two and one-half times the size of the entire school twelve years ago.

The first Annual, which was published in 1914, contains many interesting facts. With only seventeen boys enrolled, the school was able to carry on a complete program of boys' athletics, winning the County Athletic Contest. The graduating class consisted of four girls, each of whom held a class office. This bit of prophecy is also contained in the first Annual:

"We have agitated for some time the necessity of some sort of a covered gymnasium for winter and bad weather use. It is needed more at Fairview High School than any other thing just now. The school could well help to pay for such a building and the total cost need not be over several hundred dollars. It will come sometime, for improvement is the watchword at Fairview."

Mr. D. W. Klepinger was then superintendent; Mr. R. C. Smith, principal; Miss Ethel Deming, teacher of Latin and English, and Mr. G. R. Humberger, Music.

We can list only a few of the changes that have taken place in the past twelve years, in order to keep pace not only with the ever-increasing enrollment, but also with modern changes in educational methods. The curriculum has been changed by the gradual addition of the following—Home Economics, French, Social Sciences, Manual Arts, Commercial subjects, Physical Education, Art, Dramatics, and Religious Education.

The two literary societies, Philomathean and Tuscaroran, have now been subdivided into the following clubs: Health Club, Journalism Club, Dramatic Art Club, Science Club, Welfare Club, Latin Society, Home Economics Club, Music Club, History Club, Credit Club, Research Club, and a chapter of the National High School Honor Society.

From an administrative standpoint, the following are additions during the last dozen years:

The teaching staff has increased from three to eleven.

A system of weighted credits is used which has been a distinct improve-

ment over the standard method of grading. This, coupled with the Credit Club and the National Honor Society, has tended to materially improve scholarship.

In 1922 we were admitted to membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which gives our graduates a certain prestige not otherwise enjoyed.

A type of visiting teaching service has been carried on in the school which (to quote from "The High School Teacher") "is not common in a high school the size of Fairview."

Periods are now one hour in length instead of forty-five minutes, which allows time for supervised study.

An extra-curricular period has been added to the schedule. In this period all assemblies, class meetings, club meetings, etc., are held.

Fairview High School's prospective enrollment is now 330, with every indication of continued growth.

The following have acted as principals of the school, in addition to Mr. Smith, who has already been mentioned: Mr. F. E. Hershy, Mr. W. Elson, Mr. F. Sanders, Mrs. Grace M. Schiewetz, and Mr. Don D. Longnecker.

The following composed the faculty during the school year 1925-26: Don D. Longnecker, Principal, Theresa G. Folger, Assistant Principal, Avis Grace Bee, Luella Pemberton, Ruth Ingle, Mabelle Raber, Bernice Jackson, Vivian Sadler, Dale Niswonger, and Junior Reynolds.

We wish it were possible to give every one due credit for his or her part in planning and organizing the schools of Harrison Township. In addition to those already mentioned, we do want to name a few who stand out as having contributed largely to the success of the schools.

Supt. D. W. Klepinger, who served for so many years as the efficient head of the schools, was responsible for the origin of Fairview High School. He still retains an active interest in educational affairs.

In 1918, Mr. Klepinger was succeeded by Supt. J. H. Propst, who, as Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, has direct supervision not only of the Harrison Township schools, but also of the Mad River Township and the Ebenezer Special School District. Too much credit for the expansion in educational method to keep up with the rapid growth of Harrison Township, cannot be given him. He has observed the trends in education and the best ideas he has applied to his schools. In many school districts the high school is thoroughly equipped at the expense of the elementary schools, resulting in poor work in the first eight grades. This is not true of our schools, as attested by Mr. Louthian, of the State Department of Education. He found an even balance in the distribution of equipment.

But not all of the success of Superintendent Propst can be attributed to his ability to supervise and administer. He is well liked by both pupils and teachers. Especially noteworthy is the complete co-operation he receives from his teachers. A special feature of his schools is an organization of his teachers calling themselves the J. H. Propst Club. Each year a banquet is held. At the dinner held in April of 1926 the teachers presented him with a beautiful brief-case in recognition of his services to each of their schools.

It has been during his administration that the recent building program has been carried to completion.

MR. JOSEPH A. LUTZ,
now Montgomery County Auditor and Ex-President of Harrison Township Board of Education, who assumed a great share of the responsibility of the recent building program of the township, and as a result he can look with pride on the four new structures recently completed.

Each of the Board of Education members who had the responsibility of the building program on their shoulders should be mentioned for their faithfulness to the trust that the public placed in them. They were: Mr. Joseph A. Lutz, President, Mrs. Anna B. Watson, Vice-President, Mr. Elmer L. Flory, Mr. O. W. Kerschner, and Rev. Willoe J. Hall.

The present board is showing every indication of continuing this good work and have already completed some fine plans. Rev. Willoe J. Hall heads the board, with Mr. G. M. Hittle as vice-president and W. G. Siebenthaler as clerk. The other members are: H. T. Helwagen, G. R. Palmer, and Jesse Niswonger.

REV. W. J. HALL, President

G. M. Hittle, Vice-President

G. R. PALMER

H. T. HELWAGEN

JESSE NISWONGER

W. G. SIEBENTHALER
Clerk-Treasurer

FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

Top Row—Theresa Folger, Don D. Longnecker, Principal, A. Grace Bee.
Second Row—Ruth Ingle, Bernice X. Jackson.
Third Row—Dale C. Niswonger, Luella Pemberton, Mabelle Raber.
Fourth Row—Junior J. Reynolds, Vivian Sadler.

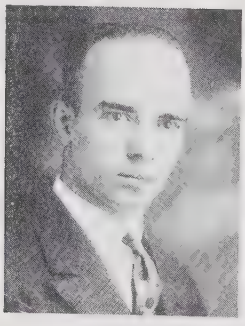
Principals of Harrison Township Grade Schools

MR. R. A. ETTER, Principal
of the Ft. McKinley School Since 1912.

MR. EMIL N. FIFER, Principal
of the Fairview School Since 1920.

MISS NELLIE R. CLOPPERT, Principal
of the Westwood School Since 1920.

MR. ROY BOWSER, Principal
of the Forest Park School Since 1924.



MR. CLIFFORD WEEKS, Principal
of the Shiloh Springs School Since 1924.

RESEARCH CLUB WRITES CODE OF ETHICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

During the school year 1925-26, a Research Club, composed of seven members of the senior class of Fairview High School, was formed. This group was organized on the suggestion of Superintendent Propst, who takes a vital interest in the affairs of the high school. With his advice, they set about devising a questionnaire, which was given to every pupil in the high school. After hours of work in classifying the various answers, they arrived at such valuable conclusions that the results can be used in the school for several years. The results were also written into a code of conduct for Fairview pupils.

This club was also responsible for the publishing of the twenty-four-page handbook, entitled "The Tower Handbook," which, in addition to the Code, contained the Curriculum, Course of Study, Calendar, etc. Over four hundred copies of this book have been distributed free.

This is but one of the three publications, the others being "The Tower Annual" and "The Tower News."

Research Club of Fairview High School, Composed of Members of Senior Class.

School History of Jackson Township and Farmersville

"Previous to the passage of the first school act, in 1861, the schools were all what are now called subscription schools. In those days they knew no other. The first school was in a little log schoolhouse which stood near where Slifer's Church now is, in Section 23. It was taught for twelve weeks, five and one-half days each week, and eight hours each day. The farmers subscribed twenty-three scholars at two dollars each, payable in money and produce. In 1810, the Lutheran minister, Rev. Mow (probably Mau), taught a school for a year in a log schoolhouse where the Staver Church now stands. In 1813, another log schoolhouse was built near the Swartzel neighborhood. It was a German school and was taught by a traveling German teacher. In 1818, a house was built on Tom's Run, one and one-half miles from where Farmersville now stands, on the Focht farm (David Stiver attended school in this building), in which school was taught by an Englishman named Graham. Schools now commenced being kept every year and in almost all neighborhoods, and indeed, the transition from subscription to district schools was so gradual that it cannot be said when the one entirely ceased and the other generally commenced. For, long after the law of 1825 was passed, which commanded the districting of each township, the subscription schools continued. In 1838, when provision was made for the building of district schoolhouses, and for some time thereafter, there were many subscription schools, but they soon began to be discontinued as the district schools opened, until now there has been none in the township for many years. There are now (1882) eleven districts with a comfortable brick building in each and school taught for at least seven months in each year. The total amount appropriated annually for school purposes is from $3,000 to $3,500."—History of Montgomery County, 1882.

Eventually the township was divided into fifteen sub-districts. The original No. 10 became the Farmersville Village District.

A Mr. Brinkerd was among the first to teach in Farmersville. The building was located on the present site of the Reformed parsonage. George Moyer, a successful attorney, and J. V. Cummings, a physician of well known merit, likewise taught in this village before taking up their respective professions. Mrs. Kate Apple, the oldest of our teachers now living, taught a subscription school here. Later she devoted six years to public school work in the village and the rural schools of this township. Thus, according to our information, the children of that early day were well drilled in the three R's.

As the population increased in the village, a more substantial structure was erected. This building was a two-story brick. Later a sort of lean-to, known as "the kitchen," was added for the primary grades. The course of study "upstairs" consisted of the common branches and advanced reviews. For a period of years this department was ably conducted by J. R. Lindemuth and J. M. Ebert, respectively. Each in turn left for a wider field of action—the former to become Recorder of Montgomery County and Mayor of the City of Dayton; the latter, the principal of a city school in Dayton and later Clerk of the County Courts.

Permit us to digress here long enough to prove that apparent insurmountable barriers can be overcome if one has the grit and gumption to do

so. The Hon. John W. Kreitzer, although he had a family to support, some of whom were already in the lower grades, sat as a student for one year in the classes of Mr. Lindemuth. The Judge, in spite of poverty and other forms of adversity, demonstrated the proposition, "It cannot be done, but here it is."

To keep abreast with the times, the first high school was organized by the village board in 1891, with James E. Yarnell principal. A two-year course was adopted. The seventh and eighth grades were also in this department. Walter B. Wolfe was the first graduate.

The old structure having become inadequate, in 1900 provision was made by the board for a new building, now known as the "Masonic Temple."

FARMERSVILLE SCHOOLS, 1900

This building, with its classrooms and auditorium, provided ample accommodations for the village pupils; but, since the tax duplicate did not provide sufficient funds to maintain a good high school, and since the interest

Old High School Building.

in higher education in the township was almost nil, a movement was launched to combine the two districts for high school and supervisory purposes.

In April, 1905, the proposition was submitted to the township board. After a lengthy discussion the roll was called and but one member, Chas. F. Hora, voted yea (the village board had previously voted unanimously for it). However, the friends of the movement, undaunted by defeat, continued to spread their propaganda, believing that a joint high school was the first step toward centralization.

Finally, on April 27, 1906, a joint meeting was held to make provision for a joint high school. The vote was unanimous. As there was no law providing for such a high school, a contract containing seven articles of agreement was drawn up and signed by the members of the two boards: viz., D. P. Fultz (president of township board), L. Fudge (president of

One of the Older Type Buildings in Jackson Township, Dist. No. 4.

village board), Chas. F. Hora, Daniel Apple, J. M. Leis, D. M. Garver, P. P. Stockslager, Samuel Izor, A. F. Gilbert, and G. B. Roof.

A copy of this contract, sent to A. B. Graham, Ohio State University, at his request, became the basis of the original Section 4740, Ohio School Code. Thus, the founders of that high school, like all men of vision, built wisely, in fact, more wisely than they knew.

The school was granted a second grade charter. A few years later, when the funds became available, a third teacher was added to the high school force. A first grade charter was then issued by the State Department of Education.

The schools of the two districts continued under this regime until April 12, 1922, when a joint meeting was held for the purpose of making the necessary provisions relative to centralization. At this meeting a resolution was unanimously adopted to request the County Board to create a new district to be composed of the Jackson Township and Farmersville Districts, according to the provisions of Section 4736, and to name the new district The Jackson Township-Farmersville Rural School District. A second resolution was adopted recommending to the County Board that the members of the new board be chosen from the present membership of the two boards, three from the township and two from the village. Pursuant to this request, the following persons were appointed: F. A. Leis, J. R. Heiney, Clem Hoops, Mrs. Rena Boomershine, and E. M. Heisey.

A bond issue in the sum of one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting and equipping a new school building, pursuant to a resolution adopted June 29, 1922, was submitted to the electors at a special election August 8, 1922. A canvass of the returns showed the following results: For, 262; against, 138. Later a second bond issue in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars was carried.

The first session of school opened in the new building September 29, 1924.

The centralized building, with its commodious classrooms, assembly, auditorium, gymnasium, library, science hall, cafeteria, rooms for agriculture, manual training, domestic science, and sewing, has added much to school and community spirit. The advantages derived and the opportunities afforded are adequate compensation for the expense entailed and the few disadvantages incurred.

All the teachers give instruction in music. Provision is made for a special supervisor in this branch. Under the efficient leadership of J. H. Garster, several good choruses and an orchestra have been developed.

New Centralized Building.

First Corps of Teachers in New Building.

The school has a well equipped manual training department. In addition to their regular duties, the boys do most of the repair work on the school buildings, thus putting into practice what they have learned in theory. In the last two years these boys have saved the board the expenditure of approximately two hundred fifty dollars.

The girls in the home economics courses have worked wonders in this school, especially in the domestic science department. Their luncheons are served at cost and are well patronized.

School History of Jefferson Township

"Among the early schoolhouses in the township were the following, standing on the sites designated: One at the intersection of the Farmersville and Germantown Pikes, near Gettersburg, which was the first, as far as we have been able to learn, built in the township. School was held here as early as 1809 or 1810, taught by a Mr. Brown. At a later date, there was a schoolhouse on the Eli Eberley farm, in which both German and English were taught by one Clinger. Another of the early schoolhouses stood on Section 18, on the Peter Weaver place. One Oblinger, a Jew, was the teacher. Prior to the building of this, he held school in a cabin having been vacated by Peter Weaver. These schools were all sustained by subscription, there being then no other mode of supply. The first law enacted in Ohio making any provision for public schools, was in 1821; but nothing was accomplished, and, in 1825, a further act was passed, mandatory in its character, commanding the districting of each township. In 1838, provision was made for the building of district schoolhouses. However, as numerous as were the acts or laws on this subject, it was a number of years before the cessation of subscription schools and the adoption of the present school system; and for years intervening, the schools were partially carried on by subscription, some public money being used. There are now (1882) eleven districts in the township, with as many substantial brick buildings, in which school is held from six to eight months each year. The amount appropriated annually for school purposes is about $6,000. The valuation of school property in the township is $16,000. The enrollment is now 913 scholars. The house in District No. 11, a one-story building, was erected in the summer of 1880, on ground purchased of Daniel Peffly, for $170, at a cost of $1,490; that in No. 10 was built in 1874 and cost about $3,000. In Districts 2 and 5, the houses are two stories in height."—History of Montgomery County, 1882.

When the township was divided into districts, each was called a unit. Each unit had its own directors elected by the people. These directors, three in number, served the same purpose as the board of education does today, employing teachers, constructing new buildings, and repairing old ones, purchasing fuel, equipment, supplies, etc. One of these directors was the chairman, who later on was the only one that was called director, the other two being called sub-directors. These would meet to employ the teacher of that particular unit and to transact any other business relative to that school.

Before the union of the units in the township, the teacher would call upon the chairman of his unit to receive a statement certifying to the time taught and the amount due. This statement was taken to the township clerk, who then issued an order on the township treasurer. The treasurer would write the teacher a check. All checks had to be cashed in Dayton.

About 1895, the teachers of this township were given a bonus from school-leases. A school-lease was a tract of land in each township set aside by the State and rented as farms, to provide additional funds for the maintenance of the schools. This money could be used only toward the payment of teachers' salaries—in short, for tuition. There were three such farms in this township, each consisting of sixty acres.

In 1836, a schoolhouse in District No. 1 was built on a half-acre of land donated by Daniel Reppe. Later the following buildings were erected: In 1876, a two-story building at Liberty, District No. 2; in 1883-84, District No. 4; in 1843, a two-story structure in District No. 5; in 1875, District No. 6 (There were nine schools at this time); about 1873, District No. 8; in 1874, a two-story building at Ellerton, District No. 10 (A few years later the second story was removed and an adjoining room was added); in 1880, No. 11; in 1908, No. 12. District No. 6, Harrison Township, was annexed to the Jefferson Township School District, in 1917. Records of Nos. 3, 7, and 9 were not available. At present, there are thirteen grade buildings, requiring seventeen teachers. Numbers 1, 2, 5, and 10 are two-room buildings.

In 1900, the first term of high school was held in the second story of District No. 5. In 1901, a grade school building was erected where the high school building now stands, to which, in 1908, there was added another room. The entire building was then used for high school purposes. The building was remodeled in 1910.

Present High School Building in Jefferson Township.

In addition to the regular required work of a chartered high school of the first grade, it has given its students training in music, cooking, and woodwork. The school sings excellent choruses and maintains an orchestra that renders selections of a high order. To the music supervisor, Mr. J. E. Woods, is due the credit for these excellent musical organizations. The school spirit is splendid. Both students and teachers are noted for their courtesy to visitors.

SUPERVISION

The following have served as superintendents: W. H. Beard, S. L. Caylor, Byron Murr, D. S. Lynn, F. M. Staver, and W. H. Vandervere.

Mr. Staver pursued his early education in the schools of this township. Later he entered the university at Lebanon, Ohio. Moreover, he has been an apt student in the more difficult school of experience, having learned to judge correctly his own capacities and those of the people with whom he comes in contact. As a teacher, he made continuous advancement, his ability winning him recognition that resulted in promotion from time to time until he was appointed Superintendent of Schools of this township, which position he held until September 1, 1925, when he resigned to accept a more lucrative position with The Miami-Jacobs Business College, Dayton, Ohio.

The history of these schools would be incomplete without at least a brief reference to the efficient service rendered hundreds of children by Jacob C. Eckhardt, who taught in the schools of this township for a number of years, severing his relationship only when the retirement system required him to do so. His loyalty to his co-workers and his untiring efforts in behalf of his pupils are fitting examples for the young men and women who enter the profession. Mr. Eckhardt retires with the best wishes of his many friends. May he enjoy the rich blessings which are his because he rendered unto the children.

The Johnsville-New Lebanon School

By W. W. Helwig

The history of the territory comprising this district prior to 1916 is embodied in that of Perry and Jackson Townships, for the County Board of Education, exercising its authority under the new code, created the district out of a little more than a two-mile strip out of south Perry and a corresponding strip out of north Jackson Township, containing about twenty-five square miles.

Efforts have been made frequently to centralize the townships, but without avail, because the centers of population were near Brookville on the north, Farmersville on the south, and along the Eaton highway, and the people living in these centers were not interested in centralization in the townships.

A Board of Education, consisting of O. F. Brumbaugh, Dr. D. C. Mills, A. B. Ulrich, Ward Slyder, and Harry Plander, was appointed.

The new Board secured eight acres of land along the Eaton highway and erected on this tract a two-room building for high school purposes only.

This district was joined to Madison Township for supervisory purposes, with John Fox as District Superintendent, but in 1919 it was joined to Pyrmont Special, Clay Township, and Phillipsburg centralized districts, under the supervision of W. W. Helwig. At that time the district consisted of two two-room and eight single-room buildings, the attendance ranging from ten or twelve at Number 7, Jackson Township, to fifty or sixty at Number 9, Perry Township. Out of an enumeration of nearly five hundred youth of school age, it was found that only two or three annually from this district attended and graduated from the neighboring high schools.

The First High School Building in Johnsville-New Lebanon.

An increased desire for higher education and the enactment of school attendance laws brought fifty or sixty high school pupils under enrollment. To care for these pupils a sixty-thousand-dollar bond issue was voted on and carried. Instead of remonstrating against the Board's procedure, the patrons petitioned for opportunity to vote an additional eighty-thousand-dollar issue for the purpose of centralizing the grades. This vote was carried, three to one. Ten acres were purchased and contracts let for a modern twenty-room building, which was ready for occupation the first of October, 1923.

BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT BUILT THE NEW BUILDING

Standing, left to right—Milton Braver and Fred Purnhagen.
Sitting—Frank Wombold, Alger Erbaugh, A. J. Brower, and Seth F. Bowman.

The Board petitioned for exemption under Sec. 4740 and elected Mr. Helwig as local Superintendent, extending his contract to August, 1928. He is assisted by a well trained corps of fifteen teachers. The building and grounds are well cared for by the janitor, Mr. Venter Priser, and the transportation system is kept efficient by Mr. Omer Erbaugh, Superintendent of Trucks.

PRESENT BOARD OF EDUCATION OF JOHNSVILLE-NEW LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Front Row, left to right—Perry Wampler, Jesse Gilbert, and O. F. Brumbaugh, Pres.
Back Row, left to right—W. H. Heistand and G. W. Shock.

Instruction had been given in the first, second, and third years of an accredited course, thus having a Senior class of twenty-three, graduated in May, 1924; a class of twenty-three in 1925, and a class of twenty in 1926. Any one of these classes numbered more than five times as many resident pupils as have graduated in any one previous year. The enrollment in the grades for the year ending June 30, 1926, was 420 and in the high school, 130. These pupils are all conveyed to and from the school by one of the most efficient and economical transportation systems to be had, thus inducing regular attendance. The various departments of the school were organized at once and met with immediate success. The Home Economics Course, including under its management an up-to-date cafeteria, became popular at once, while the Manual Arts class had more applicants than could be admitted. This school has won county-wide recognition through its success in baseball and basket ball. The boys' teams won eighty percent of the baseball games, while both teams, boys' and girls', won nearly all their contests in basket ball. Literary clubs have been established and county-wide literary contests have been entered with gratifying results. One of the most active and helpful Parent-Teachers organizations to be found in any rural district has been in operation since the establishment of the school. Capable men have served on the Board of Education and their service, together with the co-operation of the teachers and patrons, has brought frequent commendation from the County Superintendent, as well as from the State Department. Territorial additions are frequently granted by the County Board upon the petition of citizens in unorganized territory, bordering the district, for patrons are looking towards the larger school units for the proper education of their children.

Supt. Helwig and His Corps of Teachers Who First Taught in the New Building.

The new building has an excellent stage in the auditorium and a number of excellent plays have been produced by the different classes. The funds derived from these plays, as well as the profits from the cafeteria and athletic organizations, are used for the purchase of furniture, pictures, books, playground equipment, etc. The P. T. A. has taken over the landscape work. The school budget for 1926-1927 is $52,900, of which sum about $20,000 is needed for payment of bonds and interest. Bonds are canceled regularly, thus reducing interest payments by six or seven hundred dollars per year.

The people of this district are to be congratulated that there has been evolved from the one-room school system such a promising centralized school and each patron, if he loves his community, will work loyally for his school and contribute all in his power to bring about a realization of those ideals cherished so long by far-seeing men and women who love little children.

Madison Township Schools
Growth From Pioneer Days to the Present

By Charles F. Meyer

THE EARLIEST SCHOOLS

It seems that the earliest school buildings were log structures about which little can now be learned, except that some of them at least stood on the same sites which were later occupied by brick buildings.

Crude desks not unlike high, sloping bookkeepers' desks were ranged around the walls. The seats were roughly-hewn planks.

A few months' school provided by the scanty taxes which could be levied in that day did not satisfy the more educationally inclined; and among them they often raised funds by subscription and hired a teacher for an additional Spring School of six weeks or more.

After the period of the log schoolhouse came a time when there were six brick school buildings:

The Air Hill School, located as nearly as we can tell on the farm now owned by Wm. Zumbrun. Smith's School, located on the Stringtown Road between the Salem Pike and the right-of-way of the old C. H. and D. Railway. The Weybright School, one and one-half miles southwest of Trotwood. The Old Ullery School, on the farm now owned by Geo. W. Derringer. The two buildings last named are still standing in 1926. The "Ginger Hill" School, on the Jalapa Road, one mile north of Drexel, and the old Keener School, in the southwest part of the township. I am told that in the old Weybright School the floor was elevated in the rear, as in a modern auditorium.

These buildings served the community until shortly after the Civil War, when the township was divided into nine districts instead of six. Mr. John Weybright tells how a Mr. Marshall, his teacher, said farewell to his school and left to enlist in the army.

The first schoolhouse at Trotwood was built about 1866 of bricks furnished by Joseph Weybright. The mason was David Grace.

Wm. Zumbrun reports that he recalls seeing the brick for the Air Hill School hauled by an ox team.

Between 1865 and 1873 some nine schoolhouses were built in Madison Township. Later joint districts were formed at Taylorsburg, Drexel, and Sunnyside, with additional schools at Buckeye, Crown Point, and Stillwater Junction, making a total of fifteen buildings.

These schools were used until the fall of 1923, when the schools were consolidated.

IMPROVEMENTS IN SUPERVISION AND ORGANIZATION

Previous to the consolidation period there were thirteen schools in the township district, of which four had two or more rooms.

The superintendents were W. S. Mundhenk, D. W. Klepinger, 1896-1900; Geo. Brower, 1900-1902; Geo. F. Kem, 1902-1911; John E. Fox, 1911-1919, and Chas. F. Meyer, 1919-present, in the order named.

Efforts were made under Prof. Mundhenk to grade the schools and form a type of high school organization for more advanced pupils. This

process was more fully perfected under Prof. Klepinger and Prof. Brower. During the eight years of Prof. Kem's supervision considerable building was done, the Stone Quarry School, the Buckeye School, the Taylorsburg School, etc.

During Prof. Fox's term a central high school building was erected at Trotwood in 1913 and a new four-room building at Drexel in 1917.

Manual Training (wood working) and Home Economics (sewing) were added to the high school curriculum, and high school pupils from the south-east portion of the township were transported by bus to Trotwood. These beginnings paved the way for the natural and peaceful evolution of the schools into the very superior system which we have today.

With the consolidation of the schools in 1923 came a broadening of the high school course of study. Home Economics came to include Sewing, Cooking, Home Sanitation, Hygiene, Home Planning, etc. Manual Training was expanded into farm shop under a Smith-Hughes Agriculture teacher.

A Commercial Department was organized, including in its course Typewriting, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Business Arithmetic, Spelling, Penmanship, etc.

Science work was expanded so as to include thorough courses in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and General Science.

Besides this the other high school courses have been greatly improved and expanded.

Madison Township elementary pupils have advantage of equipment and organization, which make better schools than were possible under the old regime.

Athletics and play have been given a reasonable place in our school program, because we believe that the happy boy or girl, aglow with the excitement and exercise of the game, is a better student. Athletics should exist for the sake of the school, as the school exists for the sake of the pupil.

Old High School Building at Trotwood.

The Old Red Schoolhouse. How Many Memories Cling About It!

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES AND GENERAL ORGANIZATION
1914-1926

With the reorganization of the schools of Ohio under the new School Code of 1914, Madison Township came under the district supervision arrangement with Mr. John E. Fox as superintendent.

In 1917 additional school territory along the Eaton Pike was granted Madison Township by the Jefferson Township Board, and a new four-room building was erected at Drexel and the one-room school at Crown Point was suspended.

For the school year of 1918-1919 Madison Township was united for supervision purposes with Johnsville-New Lebanon schools. This arrangement was discontinued after one year, however, and Madison Township came directly under the county office with Chas. F. Meyer in charge as supervising principal. This plan was continued until the consolidation process was completed in the summer of 1924, when the township became a "4740" district with its own superintendent, working directly under the County Superintendent.

During the period of transition and adjustment, Madison Township lost territory to Brookville, Randolph Township, Harrison Township, the City of Dayton, and to Johnsville-New Lebanon District; in return she gained territory from Randolph Township and Jefferson Township.

The central location of Trotwood as a center of population is a favorable feature in the educational development of the township, making natural the placing of the high school and the largest elementary school near the village and at the same time at the geographical center of the township. The recent rapidly increasing population in the vicinity of Drexel and Crown Point has made necessary, in that locality, the provision of elementary school facilities almost as extensive as those at Trotwood. The prospects for the near future point to a very serious problem in providing satisfactory school facilities for the southeast portion of the township.

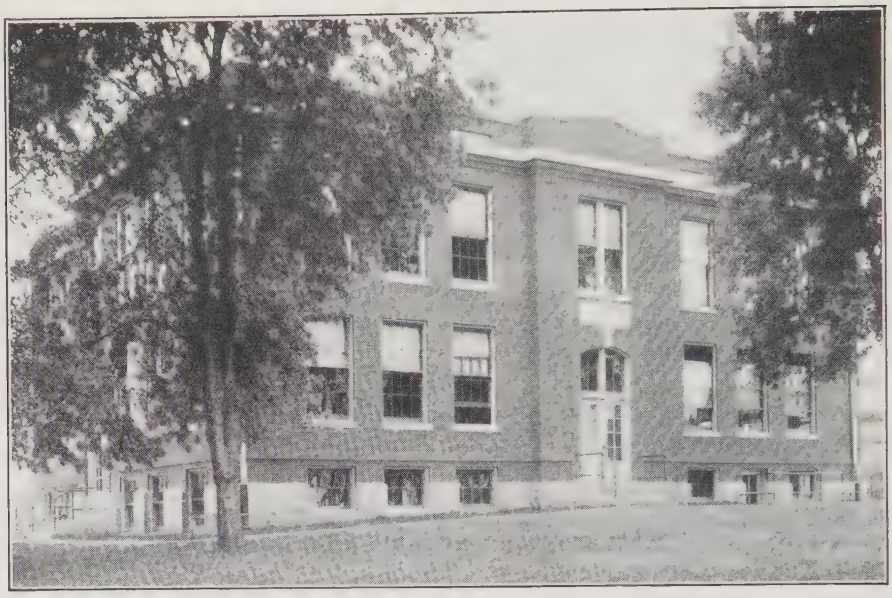
The seriousness of the problem is further increased by the fact that any buildings which might now be erected in those suburban areas will in a very brief while, have to be discarded for completely modern fireproof and fully equipped buildings such as can only be supplied when water and sewage facilities are provided by the city. It is to be hoped that the good sense of the people and the fair-mindedness of the school management will be adequate to prevent such costly rivalries and litigations as have wasted the resources and blighted the school spirit of many localities throughout our State.

THE CONSOLIDATION MOVEMENT IN MADISON TOWNSHIP

It seems that the beginnings of the consolidation movement in Madison Township are to be found in such events as the organization of a township high school and its location near the center of the township and in the formation of joint districts such as those at Taylorsburg and Drexel.

In the summer of 1919 the Board of Education, consisting of Walter L. Bashor, J. P. Seybold, C. C. Vaniman, Orion Weaver, and Perry Kreitzer, resolved to discontinue the Ullery and Keller Schools near Stillwater Junction. Mr. B. C. Niswonger was engaged to transport the pupils belonging to these schools to the Trotwood School by motor bus.

The Superintendents.



Second High School Building.

In the following year the arrangement was continued as before, except that the Board purchased two school busses and employed drivers to operate them.

In April, 1920, the people voted to issue bonds in the amount of $250,000 to construct and equip school buildings at Trotwood and elsewhere as there was need. It seemed to the school management that the schools of the township should be consolidated at two points, viz., at Trotwood and at Drexel. This plan did not meet the approval of some of the people at Crown Point, who enjoined the Board from continuing the building program. After a delay of several months, the trouble was compromised by providing for the erection of a three-room building at Crown Point.

During the summer of 1922, the above building was erected at Crown Point and four rooms at Drexel were increased to eight by the addition of a second story to the structure, which had been erected in 1917.

Beginning in 1922 and finishing in 1923, a modern school building for high school and elementary school purposes was erected on the old school site at Trotwood. The structure, which had been located on these grounds in 1913 for high school and elementary purposes, was improved and continued for elementary school. In the fall of 1925 it became necessary to add at Crown Point a two-room temporary structure.

In September, 1923, school opened with one teacher at Buckeye School on Gettysburg Avenue, in charge of grades one to four; three teachers at Crown Point, with grades one to six; six teachers at Drexel; twelve teachers at Trotwood, with grades one to eight; and eight high school teachers at Trotwood.

Seventeen school busses were required to transport elementary and high school pupils to Trotwood. Owing to the concentration of population near the other schools, no transportation is needed for them.

One of the outstanding features of the new school program in Madison Township is the completeness of laboratory furnishings and equipment.

Ample playgrounds have been provided and are gradually being developed. Considerable planting of trees and shrubbery was done in the spring of 1926.

During the period of consolidation and reorganization the following men served at one time or another on the Board of Education: Walter L. Bashor, J. P. Seybold, C. C. Vaniman, Orion Weaver, Perry Kreitzer, I. V. Bright, Geo. W. Derringer, Nevin E. Kimmel, Orion Erbaugh, Walter Vaniman, and O. K. Edwards.

The Board of Education has endeavored to keep closely in touch with the people, and the people in turn have expressed their confidence by retaining them in office as long as they were willing to serve. In this transition period Madison Township Schools have suffered no reversals of policy. We could wish nothing better for the schools of Madison Township than that people and school management may keep step in the future as they have in the past.

Since 1919 the clerk's office has been held by H. A. Borden, Harold Jenkins, Roger Patton, and temporarily by O. K. Edwards.

Aside from those connected officially with the schools, many friends of the schools could be mentioned if space permitted—men and women who have unselfishly supported every forward educational movement.

We value the contributions of the past to our schools, we have confidence in the accomplishments of the present, and we have an abiding faith that those who come after us will do abundantly better than we have done.

BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1926

Orion Erbaugh, Geo. W. Derringer, Nevin E. Kimmel, O. K. Edwards, Walter Vaniman.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL

By W. H. Lightner

Girls and boys of school age, today, look upon the radio, the aeroplane, the automobile, the telephone, as commonplace necessities. Few of them think how the world lived before these and other modern devices were given to the public.

The inventors of those various articles of usefulness, spent many years of labor and research to bring to us these hitherto unknown things, to help us enjoy this higher sphere of civilization.

So with our schools, I wonder if these same boys and girls today can realize and appreciate the many and great advantages afforded them, over those of their parents and grandparents, by the splendid schools of this county—more particularly the schools of Madison Township.

It was in 1875 when I first learned about the schools of this township entering then the school in District No. 2, at Stringtown.

My first teacher was that prince of instructors, the late Orion P. Swartzel. He was one of the few teachers in the township at that time who had any normal school training, he being a graduate of the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio.

What could you expect from a teacher, laboring under the school conditions that existed in those days? The enrollment numbered more than seventy pupils, ranging in ages from five to twenty-five years.

The textbooks were different in the various districts of the township and a uniform course of study was unknown.

Class promotions were optional with the local teacher; and, with the frequent changes of teachers, the boys and girls were the subject of many unpleasant experiences, relative to their classes and grades.

After a course of study at the National Normal University, I was employed as a teacher in District No. 6, the Ullery School.

In 1894, the year your present high school was established, I was teaching at District No. 10, at Taylorsburg.

In previous years, a boy or girl who desired a higher education was compelled to attend one of the three normal schools: Lebanon, Ohio; Ada, Ohio, or Valparaiso, Indiana. This was an expensive proposition in those days, when compared with the earning power of our parents, and beyond the reach of many of our pupils.

A high school for Madison Township was proposed as early as 1875, and quite frequently by the various school boards in the years to follow.

Increased taxation was the usual bug-a-boo that won out in all of those discussions.

The school board of 1894, after much discussion and almost innumerable meetings, established our present high school, that has grown from a one-room affair to a consolidated township high school, second to none in the State of Ohio.

Although we owe the beginning of our high school to your school board of 1894, I wish to tell you about some of the lukewarm conditions that existed at that time. At a special or called meeting, these indifferent members would not come. For lack of a quorum, many meetings went by without any results. At one of these meetings we decided to make one more attempt.

The late Henry Murr, one of the most earnest workers and supporters of the schools of this township, was selected with myself as township school supervisors.

To insure a quorum at this final and successful meeting of this school board, we divided the township into two sections. Mr. Murr was to call on

all the directors west of the Union Road, and I was to see all the directors east of the Union Road, the night previous to this eventful meeting.

It was nearly midnight when I called John Turner, a member of the board, from his bed. From his bedroom window he said: "For God's sake, Billy, go home and go to bed. Andy Kimmel and I will be at the meeting!" And they were—thanks to them.

But with all this earnest appeal on the part of Henry Murr and myself, only ten of the thirteen members attended this meeting.

The plan for the high school, as originally submitted, consisted of a two-acre tract from the Jacob Whitmore farm, with a two-story brick structure of four rooms, all for $10,000.00. This was voted down.

Then, after much discussion, a plan for a single-room addition to the old district school at Trotwood was submitted to the board. One of the members, Milton G. Pfoutz, in discussing this project, said this: "Gentlemen, a half-loaf of bread to a hungry man is better than no bread. This plan does not meet with my full approval, but I move that we accept the plan."

A vote was taken—eight members voted for the plan, one member against it. The other member would not vote for anything but the first plan.

This was the beginning of Madison Township High School.

SOME STORIES ABOUT THE OPPOSITION OF THE ESTABLISHING OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL

By W. H. Lightner

One of Madison Township's heavy taxpayers, and a member of the 1894 school board, was one of the strongest opponents. Today, a grandson of this same gentleman, a graduate of this school, is a professor in a western college.

Another of our substantial taxpayers who fought the movement at every turn came before the school board a few years later, quite anxious to have his son made superintendent of our schools.

Another story that seems almost incredible. During a heated discussion at one of the school board meetings a father of three children was much opposed to the establishing of our high school, stating that his taxes would be increased quite excessively. As I was quite well informed about the amount of taxes this gentleman paid, I replied that his net increase of taxes per year, for the high school, would not equal his tobacco bill for one month, which was absolutely true.

Trotwood Elementary, 1926.

FROM 1911 TO 1919

By Prof. John E. Fox

I came to the Madison Township Schools in the fall of 1911. The buildings were all of the one and two-room type. The great need at that time was a high school building, this being built in 1913. A consolidated building was erected at Drexel during my service in the schools.

The Board of Education was composed of men who always gave me free rein in the management of affairs. Mr. Walter Bashor was president of the board during the eight years I was superintendent, and gave his every effort to promote the schools of the township.

Mr. George Derringer, Miss Laura A. Hatfield, and Mr. Frank List, Jr., were the principals of the high school. Space does not permit me to name the other teachers who worked tirelessly and ceaselessly in the interest of the school.

We entered into the county literary contests arranged by our County Superintendent and aroused a great deal of interest among our patrons. Manual training, sewing, and other courses were added to the high school curriculum as space and finance permitted. The level of the grades was raised as fast as possible. New textbooks were adopted, courses of study were more clearly outlined. The truancy law was enforced. Progress was necessarily slow, yet each year saw some decided improvement.

SOME REMINISCENCES

By Prof. D. W. Klepinger

During the period of my supervision of the schools of Madison Township, extending from the year 1896 to 1900, there were under operation thirteen (13) elementary schools—mostly one-room—and one high school, located at Trotwood on the grounds of the present school.

As a rule, these elementary schools were crowded. They were taught mostly by men. As I look back and consider the teachers then under my supervision, I am prompted to testify of their high character, their splendid ability, their earnest endeavor, and fine success. All branches of the elementary schools were included in the daily curriculum, such as history, physiology, mental arithmetic, as well as the so-called more fundamental branches. We placed considerable emphasis on reading, writing, and mental arithmetic. In these days of high classification—few grades to a teacher—we sometimes wonder how the teacher in those days finished his daily program. Indeed, it was an arduous task; but they acquitted themselves well and produced a trained product, many of whom entered the high school.

During these four years I devoted almost all my time to teaching the high school. One assistant was employed to help me. However, he spent part of his time teaching the advanced grades of the elementary school of Trotwood, along with some high school work.

At the time of my experience in these schools it was the practice to resupply the teachers for the elementary schools from the graduates of the high school. This made it necessary to give these prospective teachers considerable work in the advanced elementary branches, so as to qualify them for the teachers' examination. During my administration, however, we gradually eliminated more and more of the common branches and substituted the strictly high school subjects.

Aside from the regular work, we placed much emphasis on maintaining a good literary society. Many a splendid program was given in oratory, debate, recitations, etc., by the boys and girls—programs that would be a credit today in the highly specialized high schools.

The graduates and undergraduates of these four years are today doing themselves and their alma mater great credit by their splendid achievements in the professions, in business, on the farms, and as homemakers.

To have had this small part in the upbuilding of the schools of my native township—Madison—is a matter of great personal satisfaction.

Respectfully,

D. W. Klepinger.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF MADISON TOWNSHIP

By Nevin E. Kimmel

In 1882 the school population of this section of the township consisted of approximately forty-five pupils, ranging in age from six to twenty-two years. At this time no high school was provided, and the pupils had to travel many miles if they wished to receive any high school training. This was the period of the one-room schoolhouse, the same teacher teaching all eight grades, and being hired under practically the same conditions and for the same length school year as today. The first teacher in District No. 7, as this district was called, was Howard Whitmore, and following him in turn came Josiah Eby, John W. Beeghly, Eli Beeghly, W. J. Patterson, and Horace H. Worley, all being teachers of the writer. The next school year following Mr. Worley's term as teacher saw a high school opened to take care of the pupils who graduated from the grammar schools of the township.

As times progressed, Dayton began to extend westward and to take in many of the old farms adjoining the city limits. This was one of the main causes for the marvelous and rapid growth of this school section. In 1917 the need of a larger school was felt, because the school population had increased from forty-five, the original number, to four hundred or more. Consequently

Drexel Elementary Teachers, 1926.

a four-room brick building was erected at Drexel. But this did not prove large enough during the next few years and so four more rooms were added to the present building, this making a good, substantial two-story brick building. Within a comparatively few years the population of Crown Point, a village located only a few miles from the heart of Dayton, became sufficiently large to justify the erection of a three-room brick building and a two-room temporary building, which are filled to capacity at present.

During these years of remarkable growth at Drexel and Crown Point, the Buckeye District remained almost constant in its school population and therefore no additions to the original building were necessary, the same one-room schoolhouse serving its purpose adequately up to this time.

When the number of pupils going to high school became large enough to justify transporting them to Trotwood, a horse-drawn bus was put into operation. But as times changed, this mode of travel became too slow and so a motor bus replaced it. Another motor bus was added in a couple of years, and everything would seem to indicate that another would be needed in the near future, so remarkable has been the growth in the school population of this section in the past.

Thus from a small beginning of about forty-five pupils, this Southeastern Section, which now includes the three schools of Drexel, Crown Point, and Buckeye, has grown until the present enrollment is somewhere near six hundred and fifty.

THE SCHOOLS MEET THE NEEDS OF THE TIMES

By Frank List, Jr.

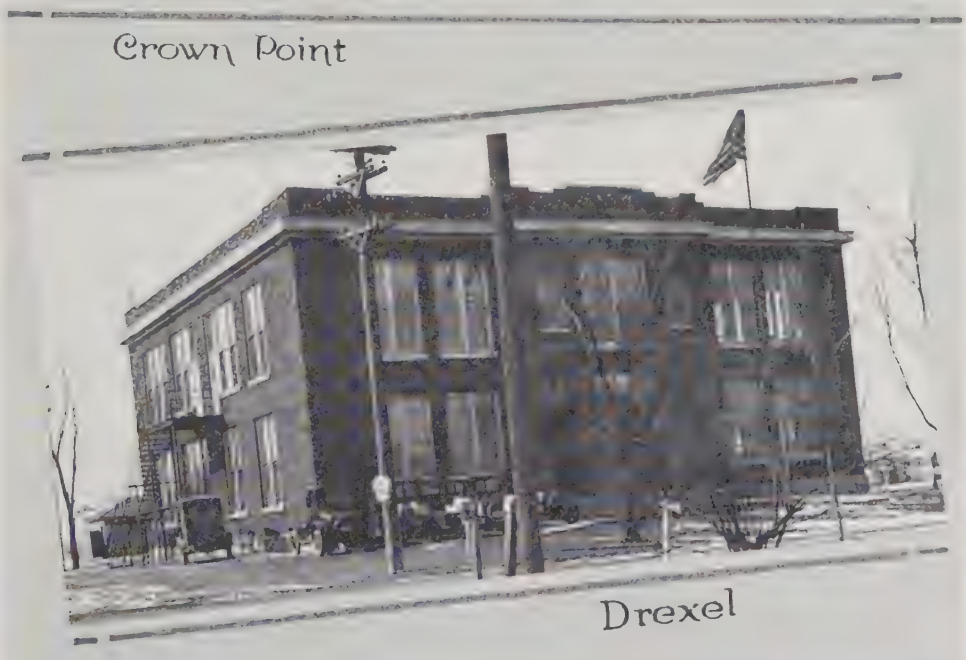
It seems but yesterday, yet it lacks only a few years of being a half-century since I entered the first grade, or to state it correctly, the "chart class," for grades were unknown then. Mr. Henry Murr was the teacher. None of the pupils addressed him as Mr. Murr, but simply "teacher," as was the custom in rural schools in those days. Mr. Murr ended his useful career when death overtook him about a year ago.

The grading of pupils in a systematic manner began in Madison Township, about 1893. Then I ranked as a "sixth grader." History, Physiology, Grammar, and Geography were optional studies and most of the pupils exercised their option.

The Madison Township High School began to function in 1893. From this school have graduated a number of men and women who have been very successful in their chosen work. Of the record of the school from its beginning the people of Madison Township have been justly proud and boast that it stands second to no other school of its size in the matter of achievement.

I recall a conversation with a teacher who had retired from the work, the conversation taking place about the time I began teaching (over a quarter of a century ago); he referred to the change in requirements where he was a teacher about 1875 and the requirements at the time of the conversation, about 1900. I was amused when he made the comparison and stated that not so much was expected or required from teachers as in his day; the educational system was going the wrong way, as for the most part only boys were being employed. I think I can observe equally as great change in the last twenty-five years as he could see in the previous twenty-five. No longer boys are being employed, but the major portion of the teachers now

Crown Point



Drexel

Trotwood

The Present-day Plants—1926.

are women, but I am not prepared to say that the schools are not in safe hands. One may have his own notions as to methods in education, but the measure of the success of any institution is the ability of its product to meet the demands made upon it. My observation is that the present-day graduate continues to stand the test. His services are in demand.

Therefore, the present-day system must be progressing along right lines.

Crown Point Elementary Teachers—1926

SOME COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS

By Geo. W. Derringer

During the last quarter of a century our country has made more progress along the various lines of activity than in any previous period of equal length in our history. In this period of growth our schools have made equal progress, especially the rural schools.

It is interesting to note the progress Madison Township schools have made in the last quarter or half-century in buildings, equipment, and revised curriculum, which have made for better schools for the township.

We have on our farm an old one-room schoolhouse which has been abandoned for almost fifty years. This was the educational center at that time. Children came to this school from a radius of five miles or more. They came from Trotwood, Ft. McKinley, etc.

Later this school was replaced by a number of two-room buildings for the same territory that the above mentioned one-room house sufficed. Still later, just a few years ago, these building were discontinued, being supplanted by a modern consolidated school building, equipped with large classrooms, physical and chemical laboratories, vocational departments, large auditorium and gymnasium, well regulated cafeteria, a finely landscaped lawn, and ample playgrounds.

About twenty or twenty-five years ago it was my privilege to teach in what was then called District No. 7, situated in the southeastern part of

the township. At this time all of the pupils of what now is known as Crown Point and Drexel were cared for in a little one-room house, not a very large school at that. Today the same territory has two school plants, one of eight and another of five rooms, these crowded to capacity.

The above facts give some idea of the growth and progress of our schools. This growth presents some problems; problems of housing and financing the schools. Our patrons have always stood for good schools. Let our motto always be: "Better Schools."

That Our Children May Eat, and Ride, and Be Warmed.

Madison High School Faculty, 1926

The Schools of Madison Township From 1902 to 1911

By George F. Kem

My incumbency as Superintendent of Schools, Madison Township, extended from the period of 1902 to 1911. During this period the annual attendance of the high school grew from about fifty to nearly a hundred, and the grade schools from an average annual attendance of 500 to about 650. In 1902 the high school ranked as an ungraded school without recognition by any college or university of the State, with two teachers, one of these being the superintendent, the two doing all the teaching work. In 1903 an additional teacher was added to the corps of instructors and by appropriation of funds by the Board of Education, laboratory and library equipment was added and by doing this, the State Department of Education gave Madison Township High School recognition as a first-class high school. Thereby recognition was secured from a number of State institutions of higher learning and colleges in the State, so that the graduates of the school could enter directly therein without any further examination.

During this period a system of inter-township literary contests was inaugurated and carried on, also a system of literary contests among the students in the high school, which formed the basis of very splendid literary training for many of the graduates of Madison Township schools.

I recall many very pleasant memories through the association during these nine years with the splendid men and women who constituted the teaching corps of the township, and it is with great pleasure I see a number of these have risen to positions of prominence and honor. I especially recall the many years of faithful and efficient service on the part of your president of the Board of Education, Mr. G. W. Derringer, as principal of the high school. I also recall the very pleasant associations with the large number of young men and women who are now active in the agricultural, business, and professional life of our county and State today, so that we see the influence of Madison Township schools not only making its impression felt throughout Montgomery County, but in the State and beyond the borders of the State as well. Madison Township is to be congratulated on her very high class citizenship and very progressive attitude always assumed by her people in all things educational, which always enabled her to stand in the front rank of the schools in Montgomery County, and it is with great pleasure and pride that I recall having been a component part of the school system for a number of years and some of the dearest friendships formed during my lifetime have been among the citizenship of this community.

It is also with pleasure that I have noted this progressive attitude assumed in school affairs, has continued and become augmented as the years go by so that the present school building and system, as maintained by Madison Township, is the equal, if not the peer, of any similar structure and organization in the State of Ohio. My wishes are that the future of the Madison Township Schools may be even more splendid and noteworthy than in the past, and that those who have charge of the school as executive officers and members of the Board of Education may be the same high-calibered, forward-looking type of men which it has been her fortune to have had in these positions in times gone by.

The Mad River Township Schools

The early history of Mad River Township is closely identified with the early history and subsequent growth of Dayton Township and the Village of Dayton. Mad River Township is a part of the old territorial Dayton Township, which included several counties. It was established in 1841 and was much larger than at present. The City of Dayton has extended its corporate limits far into the township. During the decade following there were a number of highly intellectual families who bought lands and settled up Mad River within the present limits of Montgomery County. These hardy pioneers established schools at a very early date. The writer has not been able to determine the exact time and place of these schools.

In April of 1796, three men, William Hamer, William Gahagan, and James Morris and their families and Robert Edgar, with a brother and sister, took up claims on Mad River and established a settlement in the wilderness that has never been broken. Valentine Oyler and Andrew Lock paid taxes in 1789, which indicates that they, too, had come to the settlement about 1796. Lock's tax was $1.37½ on 640 acres of land located on the present site of Phillips' Bathhouse and McCook Aviation Field. Each year added others and, about the year 1800, Henry and William Robinson built a mill near Tate's Hill, in Section 23, and gave land for a schoolhouse, which was built and known as "Robinson's Schoolhouse." Samuel Newcom and Norman Fenn taught in this school at a very early date, but neither is designated as its first teacher. There seems to have been a surplus of teachers in Mad River Township in the year 1809, since a certain James Miller, a gentleman of fifty years' experience in the schoolroom, was compelled to go north into Wayne Township to secure a position. He was awarded the distinction, however, of being the first teacher in that township.

Other schools were located near the present Wagner School, the old Harshman School, the Franklin School, one somewhat north of the Cleveland School, one erected very early just north of the McGregor Golf Course, one where the old Lewton School stands, and another back in the field north of the present Kemp Road on the Lewis Kemp farm.

Many of the buildings in Mad River Township, like in other parts of the county, were built by subscription. The last school mentioned above was erected in 1815. A full record of the twenty-nine donors and their gifts of land, planks, stone, labor, whisky and cash, ranging from 62½ cents to $8.00, and amounting to $71.62½, is to be found in the possession of the Kemp heirs.

In the year 1801, Judge Isaac Spinning located in Mad River Township and bought 960 acres of land. He was a progressive gentleman with a liberal education and considerable wealth. He reared a large family, two daughters of which married doctors and a third daughter, Harriet, became the wife of Prof. William H. McGuffey, author of the famous McGuffey Readers. Judge Spinning was one of the first judges to grace the bench in Montgomery County and was appointed by Gov. Edward Tiffin at the capital at Chillicothe at such an early date that the State had no seal to stamp the document and the Governor used his own private seal.

A local Methodist minister by the name of William Hamer, thinking

that Section 29 was to be given for religious purposes in the Simms Purchase, as had been done by the Ohio Company, settled in that section in 1796. He later discovered his mistake when he was required to pay $2.00 per acre for his land.

In addition to those mentioned above we give as a setting for the educational interest manifested in Mad River Township the following outstanding families: The Millers, Kemps, Housers, Gillispies, Lemons, Grimes, Harshmans, Ohmers, Beckels, Wagners, Rohrers, and many others who were noble, industrious Christian characters.

Space demands that nearly a century of valuable accounts be passed over in some brief manner.

Our free-for-all public schools of today were not opened in Ohio until 1853. Subscription schools, private schools, church schools, and pauper schools of various types had been in existence for more than half a century. The Horn Book had its day, but the New England Primer was in use when Mad River schools began. Our first public schools were Sunday-schools where the Bible was used as a text. The Latin grammar school came and went. The Lancastrian school had its day in Dayton, which in a small way spread to the townships. New subjects were added to the courses of study and schools were graded, at all times keeping as closely to the progress of Dayton schools as was practicable with smaller groups.

The public school system of the State now extends from the kindergarten to the university, but these were not gained in a day for the asking. Many fights, long hard fights, occurred between "Junior Progress" and "Senior Tradition," mental inertia being as difficult to change as physical inertia. Mad River Township schools, like all other schools of the county and State, were directed by the ever-changing school legislation governing their financial support, which is briefly summarized as follows:

1806-16. Organization of schools permitted. Only means of support were rents of school section and rate bill.

1825. Building of schoolhouses permitted; site must be donated. A county school tax of one-half mill required to be levied.

1827. State permanent school fund created. Building repairs limited to $300 and a two-thirds vote required to authorize this expenditure.

1831. Non-resident property holders also made liable for district school taxes.

1834. Each parent sending his child to school must provide his quota of wood.

1836. County tax increased to one and one-half mills.

1838. Purchase of school site permitted. Vote for repairs reduced to a majority. First State school tax of one-half mill levied.

1853. Rate bill abolished and schools made free.

The slavery question and the Civil War retarded school activities for a number of years. In the year 1893 the Boxwell Law opened the doors of the high schools of the State to the rural boy and girl. This law was later amended which made it compulsory on the part of the boards of education to furnish high school facilities. Immediately thereafter hundreds of township high schools were organized and houses built for their reception.

Mad River Township did not take advantage of the amended law, but

preferred to pay the tuition of her pupils in the Dayton high schools. However, in the year 1923, the township found her funds limited with which to pay tuition, and therefore established a high school of the second grade, which was chartered and known as Valley High School. The school continued for two years, when funds were again found available to pay the tuition of pupils in the City of Dayton. The first principal of Valley High School was Miss Laura Kennedy, with one assistant, Miss Helen G. Dover. Mr. T. M. Buck was principal the second year, with Miss Dorothy Juett as assistant. The school enrolled about 50 students and was located on the southeast corner of Kemp Road and Shedborn Ave., in the old Kemp Grade School building, which was sold at auction in October of 1925.

During the last quarter of a century the following buildings housed the school children of Mad River Township: A two-room building and a temporary building at the northwest corner of Troy and Leo Streets, known as the Keiser School, which was taken into the City District in 1910; a one-room school on the old Troy Pike, known as the Heinz School, which was abandoned in January of 1923, and the pupils transported to the new Wagner School; the old two-room Wagner School and the new modern four-room Wagner School building; the old two-room Harshman School, with an auditorium on the second floor and the new modern Harshman School building of four rooms, which was located in a field on Adam Clingman's farm. (A road passing the school was opened and built the same year that the house was built.) The Kemp District now has a modern four-room building located on the southeast corner of Shedborn and Jean Avenues; the old two-room Lewton School building was abandoned and the school now occupies a new modern four-room building located on a four-acre tract on the south side of the Xenia Pike in Section 21. All four of the new buildings of the township were erected in 1922.

George W. Kemp, the great, great-grandson of Lewis Kemp, was president of the Board of Education of Mad River Township Rural School District at the time of the bond issue and the erection of the new buildings. He deserves much credit for his deep interest and the forceful part which he took in securing the improvement. Mr. Kemp served the district in the capacity of board member for sixteen years, beginning in 1907. He was also a member of the County Board of Education for two years, which office he resigned to accept the newly-created position of County Attendance Officer.

The present Board of Education consists of the following members: J. M. Applegate, President, Charles E. Lucas, D. C. Heffner, John Bartlow, and Clarence Schwankhaus. John R. Whitacre, clerk-treasurer of the Board.

The teachers who have taught in Mad River Township schools during the last quarter of a century and to whom a debt of gratitude is ever due, are as follows: Jessie White, P. C. Gilbert, Mary E. Stoner, Dora Class, Sarah E. Fenner Moon, Raymond Hollinger, Luther Shell, Ida McLeary, John Beard, J. H. Propst, A. L. Stout, S. Aldine Propst, Carrie Herring Evans, Lorena Cottom, Alice Tippy, Louise O'Dell, Anna K. Wantz, Gladys Carlier, Nellie Cloppert, Glen R. Hetzler, Nora Stoker, Ella Bradford, P. E. Wellbaum, Susan Shroyer, Mary E. McElfresh, Naomi Studebaker, Frieda Bundenthal, Zella Ross Beeghley, Edna Hammond, S. T. Hahn, Mary Fitzgerald, Grace

Groby, Charles P. Evans, John W. Warner, Lona Utz, Clarabelle Schenck, L. O. Coblentz, L. G. Weaver, S. E. Shook, Bernice Murray, M. Grace Murray, Helen Landis, Ruth Caylor, Phyllis Moomaw, Bess Barnes, Laura Alice Diehl, R. O. Shroyer, Ada Fisher, W. H. West, Barbra Light, John E. Barnes, O. S. Evans, D. W. Koontz, Margaret Winn, Martha Lou Moor Flotron, Cora A. Smith, Grace D. Comstock, Ruth Duckwall, Amy Seybold, Ruth Slaght, Ruth Clark, John R. Whitacre, Meda Garber, M. J. Stauffer, Vera Cunningham, Margaret Anderson, Rea McConaughy, Frank Hartzel, Margaret Taylor, E. W. Waymire, B. F. Shoe, Agnes Duckwall, Charlotte Powell, Edward Prass, Dorothy Pflum, Beatrice Snyder, Bernice Story, Edna Landis, Helen

Harshman School, 1; Kemp School, 2; Airplane View of Wagner School, 3; Lexton School, 4; Wagner School, 5; Old Heinz Building, abandoned, 1923, 6.

Kemp, Rubie Williamson, Susie Seybold, Geneva Brailey, Mabel Jackson, Harry P. Gross, Margaret Miller.

Mad River Township employed the first strictly rural superintendent of schools in the county in the person of Frank Bassett and for a period of about five years prior to 1900. He demonstrated the need of professional guidance in rural school work and other townships followed the example of Mad River during the next decade. Mr. Bassett left the township in 1900 and no successor was employed until 1904, when J. H. Propst, who had taught the Wagner School the previous year, was elected as superintendent and lone teacher of the Wagner School at the advanced salary of $585 per year. Mr. Propst has been superintendent of the schools of this township ever since, except for the two years of 1909 to 1911, when Prof. A. B. Shauck served the township in that capacity. Mr. Propst reports that in the year 1904 the indelible footprints of a previous superintendent were to be seen in every school in the form of equipment, but courses of study had lapsed and each teacher was again a law unto himself, as to the course of study.

The local director frequently selected the English textbooks, which in some cases he could not read and there were as many types of texts used as there were clever agents to sell them. No common plan of education could be carried out, even in the same building, with such a confusion of texts and aims.

A change took place and uniform textbooks and courses of study were adopted and put into use and later when Prof. A. A. Maysilles was made the first County Superintendent, county-wide uniformity of textbooks and courses of study were secured.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MAD RIVER TOWNSHIP

Standing—Charles E. Lucas, Clarence Schwankhaus.
Seated—John Bartlow, J. M. Applegate, Pres., J. R. Whitacre, Clerk.

MAD RIVER TOWNSHIP TEACHERS

Men, left to right—Frank Hartzell, W. D. Koontz, P. E. Wellbaum, O. G. Evans.

Middle Row—Margaret Winn, Meda Garber, Mabel Jackson, Margaret Miller, Margaret Taylor, Mary McElfresh.

Lower Row—Flora Petry, Nora Stoker, Martha Lou Flotron, Edna Landis, Ella Bradford, Edna G. Hammond, Naomi Studebaker.

The Miami Township Schools

Written by Harris V. Bear

Very little is known of the early history of the Miami Township Schools. Jacob Zimmer, writing in Beer's "History of Montgomery County," in 1882, says: "The early educational facilities here, as elsewhere in frontier life, were very ordinary. The teachers, also, in many instances, were of a type antiquity might have been proud of. Hence, the people of those days should have credit with what was done and not charged with what was not done."

It is likely that the first log schoolhouse was built at Alexandersville and another was erected just east of Miamisburg. The latter was called the "Gebhart Schoolhouse."

It was not until the law of 1852 was enacted that any decided interest was manifest for the better education of the youth. Mr. Zimmer says that at this time, "The Township Board of Education, consisting of the clerks of the various school districts, in a few years after the passage of this law, commenced to build new houses in nearly every district. The log cabin schoolhouse was abandoned, while new and comfortable quarters with modern improved seats and desks, took the place of slab seats and log fires."

"The law of 1852 also provided for a higher grade of teachers and a consequent advance in compensation. Some opposition was manifested at first, on the part of parents, upon the proposed progressive steps, but in a short time it subsided."

We find the account of Mr. Zimmer verified in the Minutes of the Miami Township Board of Education, which are recorded continuously, beginning with April 18, 1853. These are in fairly good condition today, with the exception of the records of a few years, which were damaged by the flood of 1913.

Mr. L. J. Werth was the first president and Mr. William Groby the first clerk. The Board for some years met semi-annually in April and October.

At first there were eighteen subdistricts, but these were soon reduced in number. As defined in the Minutes of October, 1885, the boundaries of thirteen districts are given. Several of these were maintained as fractional districts joined to fractional districts of surrounding townships.

District No. Eleven, now known as the Chautauqua Special District, was by vote of the Miami Township Board of Education transferred to Franklin Township, Warren County, April 16, 1855. On June 1, 1868, this district was transferred back from Franklin Township and a contract was entered into for the construction of a new building. This school continued as a part of the Miami Township School District until 1909, when it was established as the Chautauqua Special School District.

When the Montgomery County Board of Education, in February, 1926, created the new Miamisburg Village School District including the Chautauqua District, this district, urged by a desire to retain its one-room school in a separate district, vigorously opposed the change, and demanded that the County Board transfer it to Warren County. This was done by the County Board in May, 1926.

District No. Twelve, which had been connected with District No. Six, Jefferson Township, was separated from District No. Six by action of the Montgomery County Commissioners in 1883.

District No. Thirteen dates from 1871, when it was formed from parts of Districts No. Four and No. Five.

District No. Fourteen had its beginning in September, 1859, taking its territory from Districts No. Six and No. Seven.

In September, 1874, the farm of Clinton Myers was transferred from Jefferson Township to District No. 8, Miami Township. This is the only part of the Miami Township School District lying outside of Miami Township.

District No. One included what is now the village of West Carrollton and District No. Two included Alexandersville and surrounding territory. On June 5, 1875, these two districts were united. On May 9, 1887, West Carrollton was incorporated as a village district, including both Subdistricts One and Two. This territory was thus lost to Miami Township School District. In August, 1907, Alexandersville was released from West Carrollton and again became a part of the Miami Township School District. In August, 1924, Alexandersville and surrounding territory, along with Districts No. Three and No. Twelve, was transferred by the Montgomery County Board of Education to the West Carrollton Village School District.

With the exception of certain transfers of territory from Miami Township to Miamisburg, the outline above indicates the principal changes.

A petition of May 12, 1854, signed by sixty-four electors, shows the German character of the population and the desire of these people to perpetuate their language. Their petition follows: "We beg leave to say that we are of German descent, but now citizens of the United States. We are, therefore, anxious that our young and rising generation receive partly a German education, and as the law provides for it, we lay this matter before your honorable body for consideration, hoping that you will establish a German school in said district, so that equal rights and privileges will be extended to all. And we will as in duty bound ever pray."

A motion to grant the request was not approved.

Occasionally regulations were drawn up governing the conduct of the schools. In the Regulations of 1859, we read: "Students during study hours shall not be permitted to whisper or communicate with each other, chew anything, make improper gestures, or leave their seats without permission."

Corporal punishment, while not encouraged, was permitted, as an early resolution indicates.

Bible reading was encouraged according to the Regulations of 1867, which provided that the schools should be opened by "reading a portion of the Scriptures without comment."

Many of the present-day subjects do not appear in the curriculum of the early schools. The enumeration of 1852 included 995 children, of which 756 were children in the schools. Only four of these were reported as studying history, while fifty were reported as studying the alphabet.

The Miami Township school system has been almost exclusively elementary. Tuition has been regularly paid for high school pupils attending the Miamisburg High School, the West Carrollton High School, and for a few attending in other neighboring high schools. For a few years, under the direction of Supt. P. O. Getter, an attempt was made to maintain a high school. This school was established May 7, 1898, and conducted in the school building located in District No. Seven.

District No. 7, where Supt. P. O. Getter maintained a High School in Miami Township.

The average salary of teachers in 1862 was reported as $35.50 for males and $30.00 for females. In 1872, the average salary of men was $60.00, of women $51.00. In later years the salaries were somewhat decreased and not until the time of the World War do we find any marked increase above that of 1872. At the date of this writing, the prevailing salary is $145.00 per month.

Supt. P. O. Getter

Supervision was very limited in the early years. In 1866, Lewis Mease, a former teacher, was appointed "Acting Manager" of the schools. For a number of years John A. Schuster was clerk of the township schools and served as manager of schools, in addition to his duties as clerk. As manager, he received the munificent salary of $25.00 per year. In his report of 1873, he says of the Miami Township teachers that they "compare very favorably with the teachers of any township of the State." At this time he reports the transfer of several colored children from District No. Five to Springboro, where a separate school of colored children was maintained.

Gradually it became apparent to the Miami Township school authorities that a better type of supervision was needed. In September, 1897, Mr. Perry O. Getter was elected as township superintendent and performed the duties of this office in addition to his duties as high school teacher.

Mr. D. H. Wysong, in 1905, was assigned the duty of supervising the schools, while at the same time he served as instructor in one of the rural schools.

In May, 1907, A. A. Maysilles was elected as part-time superintendent. His time was divided among the schools of Brookville, Miami Township, and two other townships.

In September, 1910, Mr. W. T. Trump assumed the position of superintendent of the Miami Township Schools, in addition to his work in the Miamisburg schools.

In 1915, Mr. H. V. Bear was elected to succeed Mr. Trump. In 1922, the Washington Township schools were assigned to this supervision district. In 1926, the Miami Township School District became a part of the newly-created Miamisburg Village School District, which became exempt from county supervision in September of that year.

During the fourteen years that have elapsed since the county school system was inaugurated in Ohio, Mr. A. A. Maysilles has been County

Supt. W. T. Trump, succeeded by Supt. H. V. Bear in 1915.

Superintendent, with Mr. Trump and Mr. Bear in immediate charge of the schools as outlined above.

During the entire period, the one-room rural school has prevailed, even in the face of the rapid movement toward centralization in other sections of the county.

In contrast to many places where the one-room school was retained, some noteworthy efforts were made to improve the schools of Miami Township. On July 8, 1916, a special session of the Board of Education was called to consider the establishment of a model school at District No. 9, as recommended by Dean H. C. Minnich, of Teachers' College of Miami University.

During three successive years an assistant teacher was employed to assist in any school where her services were needed and to substitute while teachers were visiting at the model school or elsewhere.

The Model School

This model school, during these three years, served not only as an inspiration to Miami Township teachers, but also to teachers of neighboring townships. Miss Hester Landis was the teacher under whose leadership the school began its existence.

Although the people of Miami Township have been too conservative to agree readily to consolidation or centralization, the Board of Education sought to improve the quality of instruction by paying salaries sufficient to attract the best teachers. The salary level in Miami Township for many years has been from fifteen to twenty-five dollars per month higher than that of rural schools in surrounding townships.

With the creation of the new Miamisburg Village School District, the children of Miami Township are promised as good school facilities as have been afforded the children of Miamisburg. Another year will likely witness the children of both city and township sitting side by side under the instruction of the same teacher.

The Miami Township Board of Education, which ceased to exist in 1926, was composed of William E. Renner, President; Wesley E. Hoerner, Vice-President; James M. Miller, Frank C. Beals, and Harold R. Gebhart. These

The Model School of Montgomery County, located at District No. 9, Miami Township, continued its sessions for three years.

men should be credited with being men of vision who were willing to sacrifice position when the good of the schools demanded it.

Mr. Charles A. Eicher served as clerk of this district for many years. He always used his influence for the advancement of the schools and when later he became president of the County Board of Education, was an active factor in making possible a better system of schools for Miami Township through a union with the Miamisburg schools. Mr. F. E. Treon, who succeeded him, was active and dependable in handling his school duties. He willingly sacrificed a position with a salary for the benefit of the schools of his community.

MIAMI TOWNSHIP TEACHERS

Standing, left to right—Ruth Getter, District No. Ten; James Woods, Music; Nellie Borger, District No. Eight.

Sitting—Martha Wilson, District No. Thirteen; Pearl Swartzel, Chautauqua Special; Stella Fisher, District No. Four; Anna Wantz District No. Seven.

Inserts—Helen Stocker, District No. Five; Carl Burns, District No. Six. Absent, Mollie Hartzell, District No. Nine; J. Harrison Fox, District No. Fourteen.

The Early History of the Public Schools of Miamisburg

Written by Elizabeth Christy and Bertha Kinder

The history of Miamisburg begins in 1797, when William Hole located in Section 25, just east of the present town. In the following winter his parents, Zechariah and Phoebe (Clark) Hole, came with their family from Virginia and settled in the same section. In the summer of 1799, a block-house was erected on a part of Zechariah Hole's land, around which was thrown a stockade for protection against the Indians, and this became known as Holes' Station. It was soon of importance as the headquarters for all who came up from Fort Hamilton to this region.

After 1800 most of the settlers who came to this vicinity were Germans from eastern Pennsylvania. By the year 1818 the Holes were either dead or moved away, so, when in February of that year the first town lots were platted and sold by Emanuel Gebhart, Jacob Kercher, and Doctors John and Peter Treon, the name was changed to Miamisburg.

On the first day of May, 1818, the twelve or fifteen families of the community met and subscribed $187.00 for the erection of a schoolhouse, which was built just north of Central Avenue on ground later occupied by the canal. This building was not used for school purposes for a year or two, because there were two other schoolhouses in the vicinity, the one at the St. John's (Gebhart) Church about two miles east of Miamisburg, and the other about two miles to the southwest, near the Stettler Church. These two log houses were built, the first, about 1806 and the other, a little later, and furnished accommodations for the children and youth of this region. These schools were the *first educational centers* of this community, and because of some rivalry and opposing elements, held sway for several years after the new schoolhouse was built in Miamisburg.

The schools taught in this first building were kept up by voluntary subscriptions under the management of the trustees of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches. These congregations also worshiped here. All instruction up to 1829 was in German. When the canal was constructed, the State removed this building, but it is still standing on South Second Street, the home of the late Mr. John Long, who served for so many years as janitor of the Miamisburg Schools.

The second schoolhouse, built by a subscription of $1,000, was completed in 1826. It was of brick, and as it was also used for church purposes, had a pulpit at one end. It still stands on South First Street, but is now a private dwelling.

The third schoolhouse, built on North First Street in 1834, is no longer standing. It was the first to be erected under the school laws of Ohio, and was called the "upper school." The "lower school" also placed its management under the new board of directors. Quit a spirit of rivalry existed between these two schools during the years that they, together with various private schools, served the needs of the community.

The earliest known Miamisburg school teacher, 1823, was the Reverend Lewis La Rose, of the Reformed Church. This remarkable man did much to build up the moral interests and religious sentiments of the Miami Valley. Born in eastern Pennsylvania, he served under Washington during the Rev-

olution, then preached in North Carolina, and came from thence to Hole's Station with his family in a four-horse wagon in 1804. He immediately entered 160 acres of land, about one mile southeast, upon which he erected a log cabin. It was he who organized the Gebhart and Stettler churches and schools, later the Reformed Church in Miamisburg, and was engaged in missionary work throughout Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. He died November 17, 1844, in his ninetieth year, in the same house he had erected forty years previously. Among his neighbors he bore the name of "Peacemaker," a man whom all loved and respected.

One of the early teachers in the "lower schoolhouse" was a Mr. Hurd, who knew no German. He inquired the name of two boys. When told it was Schwartzentrauber he was abashed, as he could neither pronounce nor comprehend this name. He asked what it would be in English. When told "Black-grape," he insisted on calling the boys by this name, to the frequent merriment of the school.

Another teacher, Mr. Brayele, was somewhat eccentric and critical. He prided himself on his scholarly attainments and exact niceties of language. It is said that on one occasion, during public worship in the old Methodist Church, he arose and criticized the minister during the delivery of his sermon in regard to the correct meaning and proper use of certain words, and pointed out to him what words to substitute. The minister good-naturedly heard and accepted his criticisms, and without any apparent annoyance continued his discourse.

A forward movement in education was shown in 1849, when the citizens of Miamisburg erected the front part of the old school building on East Central Ave., at a total cost of $4000. The first school taught in this fourth schoolhouse commenced January 7, 1850, with Mr. J. D. Pelton, principal, and Samuel Boltin, Miss Hannah Cassady, and Mrs. Almira Hyde as teachers.

Old High School Building.

Mr. Boltin received seventy dollars per term, Miss Cassady forty, and Mrs. Hyde, thirty. A teacher who followed Mrs. Hyde was Mrs. Elizabeth Wikoff, who was a daughter of Reverend La Rose. The school board members at this time were David Hetzed, M. S. Blossom, and Samuel Mays.

In 1867 the school was reorganized. A superintendent was elected and a high school established. These four rooms being inadequate, in 1868 an addition was erected at the southeast corner of the old building. In 1872 a two-roomed frame building was constructed on the school grounds. Two more of the same type were later built as needed.

So far as buildings are concerned, this completes the history of the Miamisburg schools prior to 1883. The early superintendents were: Samuel O. Foos, Francis C. Ampt, William C. Reeder, David T. Ramsey, William W. Locke. Mr. Ampt served the longest, six years. His reports in the old school records are fine examples of accuracy and beautiful writing.

Some faithful members of the School Board during the same period were: the Rev. Dr. I. H. Reiter, the Rev. Christian Albrecht, Henry Groby, Augustus J. Eminger, Charles R. Allen, Dr. George Gotwald, Albert T. Wittich, Henry C. Hunt, Michael G. Bohn, John H. Grove, Abr. A. Hunt, Frank Smith, Abel Hoover.

Thomas A. Pollock came to Miamisburg as superintendent of schools in the fall of 1879. He was an educator far ahead of his time. By nature he was genial and kindly, sincerely sympathetic, making lasting impressions for good on his pupils. "He gave to the pupils a new idea of the object of school and study," writes O. T. Corson. Mr. Pollock served as superintendent for eleven years. He died October 13, 1890.

Thomas A. Pollock

J. C. Conway

Hugh Myers served for one year, to be followed by Jacob A. Simon for a year. Since that time Mr. Simon has resided in Cincinnati, where he is still recognized as a prominent educator. Mr. Frank Shuey followed for a year and a half, when he left the profession to follow the practice of law in Camden, Ohio.

Mr. J. C. Conway became superintendent in 1892 and was an able and efficient leader for eleven years. This was a period of more rapid growth. The brick building known as the "Arch Building," was erected at this time, and to meet the needs of the growing population in the north end, the Kercher School Building was erected. Miss Mary Kinder has now completed her twenty-fifth year of continuous service in this building.

When Mr. Conway left to go into business at Springfield, Ohio, the Board of Education secured the services of Mr. William McK. Vance, who came here from Urbana, Ohio. Mr. Vance was an able school man, well known throughout the State. During his term the course of study was greatly improved and enlarged, and the schools were brought to a high standard. By this enthusiasm and effort the Auditorium Building was planned and erected. This handsome building was dedicated in 1906. The Board of Education at this time, and for many years afterwards, were: L. H. Zehring, President; J. M. Purnell, Clerk; William H. Albrecht, Treasurer; Charles W. Dodds, and Lee Mitchell. Mr. Vance left Miamisburg in 1906 to accept the leadership in the Delaware, Ohio, public schools, where he died in 1922.

Wm. McK. Vance

The sources from which many of these facts have been compiled are Beer's "History of Montgomery County, 1882," and a very excellent and comprehensive "History of the Public Schools in Miamisburg," written by Dr. I. H. Reiter, president of the Board of Education at that time, and published in "The Miamisburg Bulletin" in 1883. This last valuable work is now on file in the records of the Miamisburg public schools.

The Later History of the Public Schools of Miamisburg

Written by Harris V. Bear

The Twentieth Century has been marked by great educational progress. This spirit of the age has been reflected in the schools of Miamisburg.

In the fall of 1906, Mr. W. T. Trump came to Miamisburg from South Charleston, Ohio, where he had been superintendent of schools. Under his vigorous leadership the schools prospered. After nine successful years he was asked to work in the schools of Circleville, Ohio. He is now located in Dayton, where he is district manager for a flourishing life insurance company.

During his administration the law, creating a county system of schools for Ohio, was enacted. Although Miamisburg had always manifested considerable pride in maintaining an independent school system, financial and administrative reasons combined to make it advisable that the local schools should become a part of the county system. This has continued during the last fourteen years. For a while the boards of education of the three districts of Miamisburg, Miami Township, and Chautauqua Special united to elect their superintendent of schools. This continued until in the superintendency of H. V. Bear, when the Miamisburg schools, along with the schools of these other districts, began to be administered by an assistant county superintendent, elected by the County Board of Education. To this district the Washington Township schools were annexed in 1922.

In 1926, after the County Board of Education had created the new Miamisburg Village School District by uniting the Miamisburg, Miami Township, and Chautauqua Special Districts, the changed conditions and the growing desire in Miamisburg for a separate system of schools led the Miamisburg Board of Education to declare for exemption from county supervision. Thus Miamisburg, with the surrounding territory attached, resumed its former independent status.

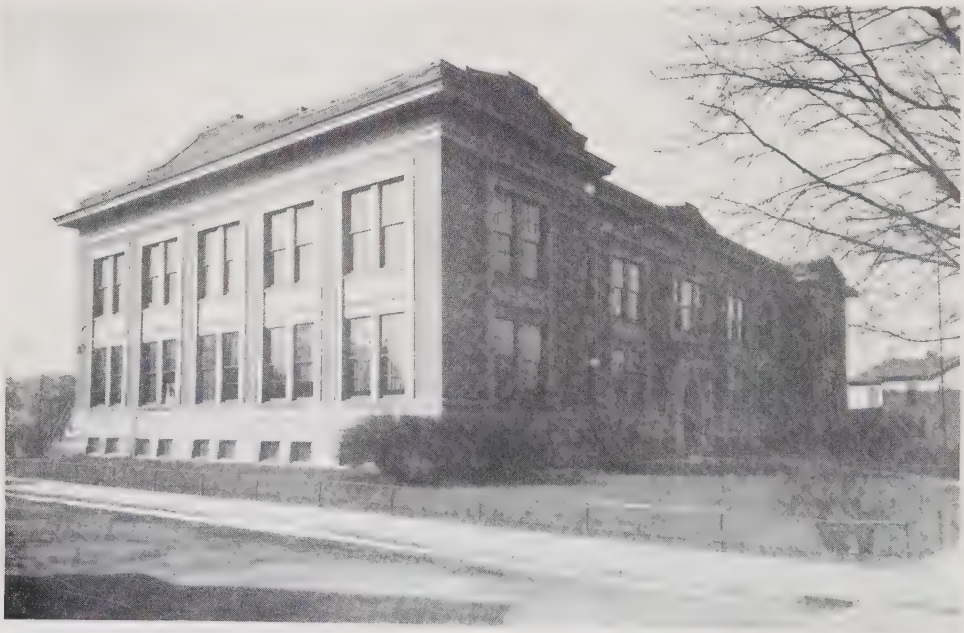
During the connection with the county system of schools, the leadership of the County Superintendent, A. A. Maysilles, was accepted with a good spirit of co-operation. A better feeling prevailed than could ordinarily be expected from a small city like Miamisburg, where local pride and loyalty to local institutions are generally antagonistic to foreign influence and leadership, and where so many forces are at work in the direction of local autonomy. It should be understood, however, that the Miamisburg schools, while pursuing an independent existence, ought not and will not hold aloof from the neighboring schools of the county in all matters which are of mutual value.

The present superintendent of schools succeeded Mr. Trump in 1915. He hereby acknowledges his indebtedness to his predecessor, under whom he worked as principal of the Miamisburg High School for five years. After a short two years in the Shaw High School in East Cleveland, he was asked to succeed Mr. Trump in Miamisburg. Due to the fine spirit of co-operation from members of the Board of Education, teachers, pupils, and patrons of the schools, the past eleven years have witnessed a continuance of the progress, in a measure at least, that has steadily marked the Miamisburg schools from the early years.

During this period the physical plant, as well as the school organization, has undergone great changes.

Miamisburg is somewhat conservative and waits perhaps too long at times, in making needed improvements, but when the necessity for change becomes manifest, the mighty forces of the little city let loose and command that the needed improvements be made. The people respond with overwhelming majorities.

Before the present era, several small makeshift buildings had been used for elementary school rooms. To replace these, the stately Auditorium Building arose in 1906. Then there was a period of many years before it



The Auditorium School.

became fully evident that better high school accommodations were needed. Then, again, the slow but certain command met a magnificent response in a noble structure erected and equipped at a cost of almost $250,000. The members of the Board of Education at this time were Bertrand Keiser, President; Alfred L. Silberman, Vice-President; J. Shepherd McKnight, Clerk-Treasurer; Charles A. Eicher and John G. Kline. A community owes much to busy business men who devote many hours of their time without compensation in a community enterprise of so much importance.

And now the need of better schools for the children of the rural community surrounding Miamisburg is manifest. The popular mandate of November, 1926, will determine whether this district will immediately join the long list of progressive rural communities. But, regardless of the time necessary to complete the task, the young folks of Miami Township are promised equal school advantages with the most favored.

In organizing the schools of Miamisburg, it has been necessary to keep in mind the fact that neither strictly city nor rural conditions prevail. Miamisburg is closely linked with the industrial system of the Miami Valley and also depends largely upon the activities of those who till the fertile soil of the same valley. The children in the schools come from homes of all classes and must be prepared to do the work of both country and city.

That school system does its work best which presents to its pupils the best opportunity for development along lines best suited to their capabilities. This includes training in character, initiative, and hard work, without which there can be no real success.

The Miamisburg schools emphasize the fundamental and traditional subjects, such as reading, arithmetic, spelling, geography, history. Supplemental to these courses in the fundamentals, from the fifth grade up, a definite scheme of visitation to the industrial plants of the community makes for more intelligent study of the possibilities open to each child in the selection of a future career.

It is the purpose to interest in as many activities as possible in order to provide the greatest range of choice.

In a small city, the courses of study must necessarily be of an exploratory and pre-vocational character, rather than strictly vocational. For this reason the numerous regular and extra-curricular activities are provided, including the manual arts, home economics, stenography, bookkeeping, printing, journalism, athletics, orchestra, band, chorus, art, physical training, dramatic exercises, and health work. We trust that the interests developed in these subjects point the way to the future for the child.

In the Miamisburg schools the 6-6 plan is used with a modified platoon type prevailing from the fourth grade up. In the junior high school the course is enriched with a variety of the subjects listed above, not only to give the youth an opportunity to discover himself, but also to encourage him to stay in school. As one evidence of this, the graduation class has increased in numbers threefold at the same time that the population has increased approximately one-third.

The value of the art work in the Miamisburg schools is not always appreciated. It not only enriches the lives of our young people by its culture, but it also has a very practical value. Every young woman displays

her knowledge, or lack of knowledge, of art and design in the decoration of her home. Every young man in business and in the shop reveals, in the display of his merchandise, or in the quality of his workmanship, his knowledge of the principles of art.

Clara Shuler
Librarian

Laura Sharrits
Community Nurse

Music, both vocal and instrumental, has values that need not be defended. In Miamisburg, as elsewhere, this is emphasized. The latest feature to be added is a boys' band of thirty-five members, well trained and fully uniformed. An organization of this character ranks along with the Hi-Y, Boy Scout, Girl Reserve, and Girl Scout groups in keeping our young people interested in that which is wholesome. All of these are encouraged in this system of schools.

No school can be successful without good community support. In Miamisburg it is only necessary to point out a need. The response is certain.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

The upper six grades receive instruction from these teachers. A great variety of interests are to be found in this school and each teacher is a specialist.

Standing, left to right—Gervais Frost, science; Lowell Penland, manual arts; Katherine Brady, geography; Louise Schell, reading; Walter Shade, principal; Helen Kimmel, commercial; Jonnie Trotter, home economics; Mary Grennan, mathematics; Ralph Ness, athletics.

Seated—Anna Shepherd, art; Mary Brown, English; Elizabeth Christy, history; Esther Gebhart, music; Helen Brown, physical training; Maude Bell, mathematics; Sarah Icke, religious instruction; Jessie Smith, Latin.

BOARD OF NEW MIAMISBURG DISTRICT

Standing—J. Shepherd McKnight, Clerk-Treasurer; Harris V. Bear, Superintendent of Schools; Robert M. Heist.

Sitting—Harold R. Gebhart, Bertrand Keiser, President; William E. Renner, Vice-President; William H. Kuhn.

Mrs. Mattie McDonald and Dr. E. B. Doan resigned from the old Miamisburg Board. James Miller (for many years a member), Wesley Hoerner, and Frank Beals resigned from the old Miami Township Board. All have worked without compensation and have sacrificed time and effort.

PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

Standing, left to right—Mrs. Albert Smith, Mrs. Roy Forbes, Mrs. Frank Theobold.

Sitting—Mrs. Elwood Early, Mrs. Frank Ranley, Mrs. Van Sprigg.

The present Parent-Teachers Association was organized six years ago to take the place of the Mothers' Club.

Each one of these mothers has served as president one year.

Mrs. Ranley is the new president elected to succeed Mrs. Smith.

This group represents a great body of mothers who work hand in hand with the schools.

Miamisburg School Band.

THE MIAMISBURG SCHOOL BAND

The boy must be encouraged to do that which is wholesome. Under the leadership of Stanley Lesher, this has become a flourishing organization. It is sponsored and financed by a committee representing the Board of Education, The Rotary Club, Junior Order of United American Mechanics, American Legion, Parent-Teachers Association, Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity, and Miamisburg High School Athletic Association.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

THE CAFETERIA FOR THE HUNGRY

Here and in the home economics courses the girl learns to do the practical home work. She needs this training for her future home career as wife and mother.

Elementary Teachers (Names on opposite page).

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

The elementary schools of Miamisburg have not been neglected. The character of building and teachers testifies to this. This group instructs the first six grades.

A modified platoon type of school prevails in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, with the work fully departmentalized. This provides many interests for the children and enables teachers to teach well the subjects which she is best prepared to teach.

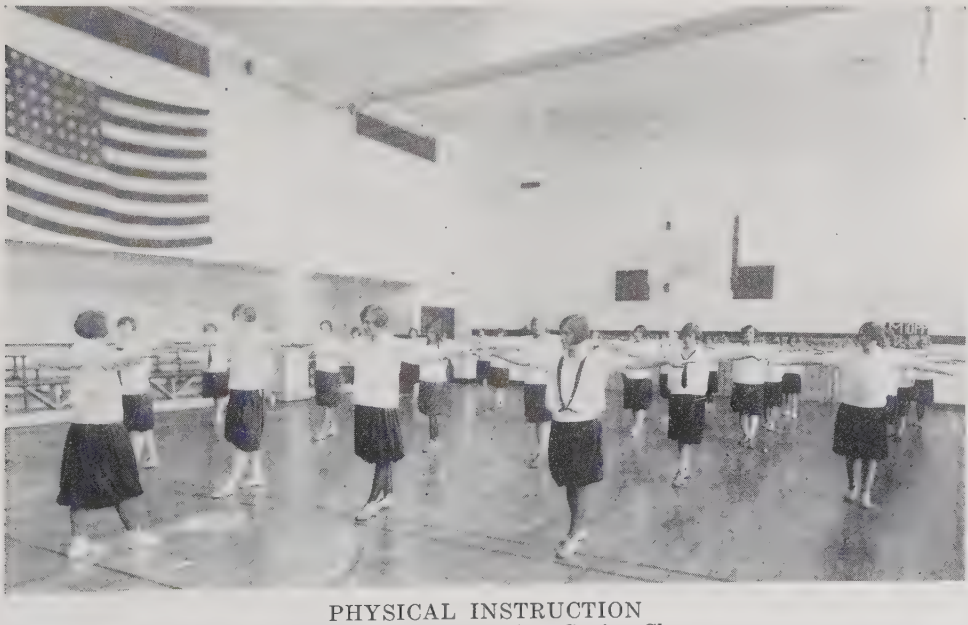
Upper Row, left to right—Mary Zech, Edith Smalley, Laura Sprigg, May Kirk, Jessie Kinderdine, Margaret Stowe, Reba Williamson.

Lower Row—Mary Christy, Bertha Kinder, Minnie Moyer, Florence Best, LaVeta Bauer, Edna Berger, Mary Kinder.

Miss Bertha Kinder has completed forty years of much appreciated service in the first grade of our schools.

PHYSICS

Mr. Shade leads the young people in working out the problems of mechanics. The telephone, the dynamo, the automobile, the radio had their origins in the experiments of the laboratory.



PHYSICAL INSTRUCTION

Miss Helen Brown with a Senior Class.

There are three special teachers, a part of whose duties is to direct the health work and physical training. This is supplemented by annual examinations by the county physician. The Miamisburg Community Welfare Association maintains a community nurse who spends a part of her time in the schools with an office in the school building.

MR. PENLAND AND HIS BOYS

The courses in the manual arts and in home economics are not strictly vocational. They are planned in order that young people may learn to respect the dignity of labor, and that they may acquire certain skills that will be of benefit in any occupation or home career.

PREPARING FOR A VOCATION

CHEMISTRY

History of the Oakwood School

History of the Oakwood School District begins over forty years ago in a little red brick building near what is now the junction of Far Hills Avenue and the Cincinnati Pike. With that as an introduction, the history may be divided into three chapters, called "The Green Barn," "The New Brick Building," and "The New High School."

In the days of the Cincinnati Pike School, Van Buren Township was divided into seven sub-districts and this was "No. 3." Here were two rooms, divided by a cloak hall. In 1896-97 and 1897-98, Miss Frances Parrott taught the first three grades and a man the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth, Mr. R. T. Houk was president of the board of District No. 3 and Mr. John Munday was a member. Both are men whose names have long been connected with Oakwood civic affairs.

THE GREEN BARN

This chapter takes its title from the building first known as the Oakwood School. In 1908, after the village was first incorporated, the residents were looking for a place for a school. The population was then 250. There was available the lot on the northwest corner of Harmon and Dixon Avenues. Here stood a well-built barn in a large yard. The owner, finding he could not afford to build his house at once, had made his barn substantial enough to live in. So its two rooms, having served as a residence, made excellent schoolrooms.

The first classes were held here in the fall of 1908, the first four grades under Miss Muriel C. Self in one room, the other four under Miss Cora Rosnagle in the other. Once a week a music teacher came and then all eight grades gathered in one room. This was also the custom for opening and devotional exercises in the morning. Mr. E. W. Davies was president of the Board of Education.

Some pupils attending the early years of this school are living in Oakwood today, among them being Rose Hartzell, Robert Hartzell, Nelson Reiger, Robert Davies, Mary Munday, and among those who have moved away, Isabel Whipp, Lilah Talbott, and Frederick Hopkinson.

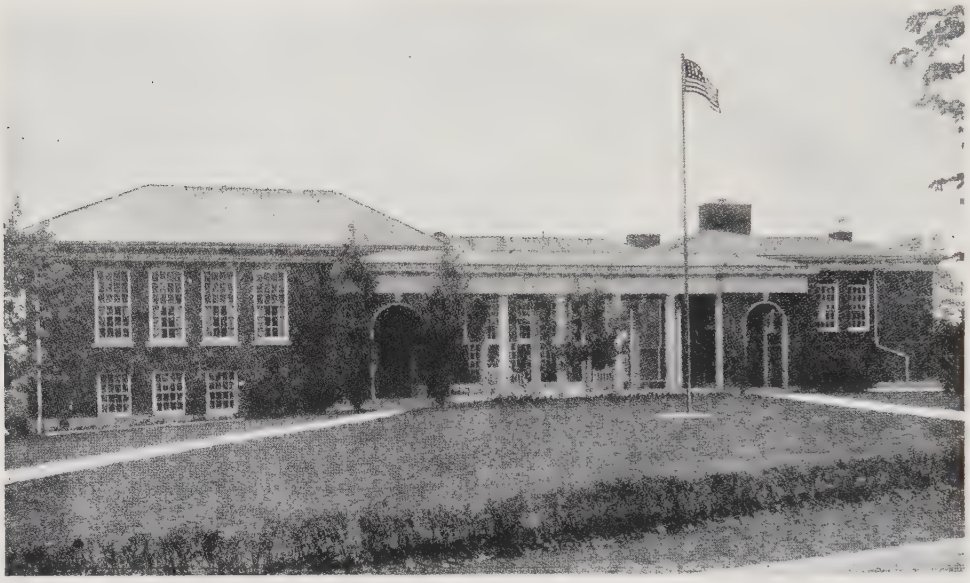
Many of these first scholars, twenty-six in all the first year, can tell of how the boys took care of the furnace, of how they all skated on the fish-pond in the winter and waded in it in the spring, climbed the gnarled trees and played in the summer-house and in the cemented squares which the original owner had built for hot-beds.

The second year Miss Elsie Seymour was principal. In 1911 a kindergarten, with Miss Katharine Van Loan as teacher, was started in one of the houses on Colonel Meade's property. Already the building was becoming crowded and there was no room in it for these youngest ones.

The enumeration of the school district in 1912 was 96. Today it is 811. At this time a bond issue of $15,000 was raised to build a new schoolhouse. The last bond issue raised in Oakwood for school purposes was $450,000. The barn was becoming crowded and in September of this year Mrs. Talbott extended the hospitality of her third floor to the overflow. The primary grades, under Miss Van Loan, met there with Miss Thomson (now Mrs. Stanley Brehm, president of the Oakwood Mothers' Club) teaching the third

and fourth grades and Miss Elsie Seymour the four upper grades. At that time there were thirty-nine enrolled in the first four grades.

An editorial in the January, 1913, number of "The Oakwood Village Record," a publication which at that time expressed the community spirit existing in Oakwood, speaks of the erection of the new brick building on the same lot.



OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Formerly used for High School and Elementary School. Rapid growth of the Village necessitated the building of a strictly High School Building.

THE BRICK BUILDING

"We need more ground, because the present lot will not provide room for a modern playground and outdoor school. We need four schoolrooms, a library, a room for carpentry, and one for domestic science."

And in the same number of "The Record" we find: "Subscriptions to the fund for a bigger and better schoolhouse range all the way from two dollars to a thousand dollars and the fund is increasing daily.

"A third of the total amount has been promised by one person who is interested in making Oakwood's school as good as the best.

"This interest is general. Residents who are neither property owners nor parents have subscribed liberally."

The plan was to have a central hall extending from east to west, with classrooms on each side, and later to add a gymnasium, an auditorium, and a swimming pool.

In the fall of 1913 the new building was occupied for the first time. There had not been sufficient funds to follow the first plans, so there were only three rooms along the north side of the hall and a small office at the end. The old building was still used for special classes.

Miss Ada J. Blair was principal during the years of 1914-15. Both she and Miss Lillian Smith, teacher of the kindergarten and of the music and art classes, were graduates of Oberlin. Miss Van Loan had the primary grades and Mrs. J. Russell Clarke the intermediate grades. Miss Margaret Burnet took Miss Van Loan's place in the second year of Miss Blair's regime.

The eighth grade class of four members, to which Mr. E. G. Beeson, superintendent of schools of Van Buren Township, awarded diplomas in June, 1916, consisted of Alice Cooke, Henrietta Clunet, Mabel Creager, and Robert Davies. The last two were the first pupils to complete eight years spent entirely in the Oakwood School, having entered the first grade in the first year of the Green Barn.

The next principal was Mr. Harold R. Blake. Pupils now in the high school who went to school under him speak of him with affection, for he endeared himself to them as a companion on the playground, as a respected and admired teacher in the schoolroom. He left after one year of teaching to enlist and Oakwood people later heard of his death in France, with deep regret.

A principal event of this year was the ceremony held on April 23, when the flag presented to the school by Mr. Robert Patterson was raised. The entire village was present at the patriotic exercises. It is interesting to note that the flag-pole in front of the present high school was the gift of Mr. Frederick Patterson.

Another red-letter event of this year was the formal opening, on May 11, of the new addition to the schoolhouse. This provided a gym and auditorium which seated three hundred. This is significant of the emphasis which had been placed on the community idea since the beginning of the school in 1912. "Let us make the schoolhouse a community center, where we may all meet and which we may all use." Accordingly, the new building provided not only an auditorium, but a room for a council chamber as well. During the war this room was used for Red Cross work by the women of the village.

The next principal was Miss Corinne Brabec, whose corps included Mrs. Clarke, Miss Burnet, Miss Smith, Miss Madge Routsong, and Miss Lou Weber. Of these, one, Miss Weber, is still teaching in the Oakwood School and can tell better than anyone else of the changes of the next few years.

She first taught art, sewing, and cooking. Rooms for the last two were specially fitted, but for several crowded years she held her art classes in whatever space could be found; in the hall, in the kitchen, in the basement, and finally outside of the schoolhouse altogether, in the Library House on Park Avenue—until she was finally ensconced in the splendid art room of the new high school, stretching across the entire north end of the building, with skylights, facilities for metal work, for modeling, for exhibiting.

The Board of Education at the time when Miss Brabec came included Mr. W. E. Hadeler, President, Dr. D. B. Conklin, Mr. E. W. Davies, Mrs. R. S. Fowler, Mr. D. W. Iddings, and Mr. W. E. Freeman, clerk and treasurer. The next year Mrs. Fowler Smith, Mr. Robert Cowden, and the Rev. T. H. Cooke replaced Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Davies, and Dr. Conklin.

At that time Mr. E. T. Banks, prominent colored educator of Dayton, was engineer for a period of several years. His amusing stories, with which

he was generous, are well remembered by the children. In 1918, he went to France, having been recommended for Y. M. C. A. secretarial work.

The graduating class of that year included four girls and one boy: Charlotte Lane, Cora Stoddard, Frances Belik, Alberta Carder, and Billie Clegg. At the end of this year the usual picnic was held at Schantz Park. This annual affair, arranged by the Mothers' Club, was attended not only by the children, but by all the families in the village, whether they had children to bring or not.

Miss Brabec was principal for the next three years. During this time Oakwood boys and girls were still attending the city high schools, while the village paid tuition for them. The school was growing so, due to the growth of the village, which had been steadily increasing ever since the time of the flood in 1913. The problem was becoming acute. It was not only necessary to provide more space for the grade school, but it would soon be necessary for Oakwood to have a high school of its own. Another addition had been made to what was in 1913 the new building, but even that was now crowded to overflowing.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Edwin D. Smith, President. 2. Nelson S. Talbott, Vice-President. 3. Mrs. George H. Wood. 4. Vernon N. Lesher. 5. Mrs. Harry D. Hunter.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

The first step was taken when Mr. Nelson S. Talbott, president of the Board of Education, engaged as principal and superintendent, Mr. Arthur E. Clagett, who had previously been principal of Parker High School. In the fall of 1922 the Oakwood High School was organized on the six-six plan, whereby the grade school ends with the sixth year and the seventh and eighth grade are junior high school classes. It was no longer necessary for Oakwood boys and girls to go into Dayton to high school and in June, 1924, the first class graduated from Oakwood High School.

That year had seen the organization of the district take great strides. Plans for a new building had also proceeded apace. On November 7, 1922, the Board of Education submitted to the electors a bond issue to build a new high school, estimated to cost $385,000. The school was to be located on Far Hills Avenue on a six and a half acre plot purchased by the Board for $40,000. This property and the house that stood on it had belonged to the Harmon family for two generations.

At that time there were 325 pupils attending the Oakwood School, forty of them being high school pupils. The next year the high school enrollment was eighty-five, and in the fall of 1924 when school opened, with all twelve classes in the one building awaiting the completion of the high school, the enrollment of the six upper years was 125. Today it is 316.

In 1922 the villagers had voted to spend $175,000 enlarging and modernizing the elementary school and $450,000 erecting the high school. Finally, in November, the Oakwood High School, following the band, went in a triumphant procession from the elementary school on Harmon and Dixon Avenue to the new high school. Here there was ample space, and back in the elementary school there was space for the grades.

When school opened in 1925 the Oakwood system had enrollment of over 600 (in 1922 it was 325) and the faculty numbered thirty, an increase of twenty-five since 1922. The school, which has experienced such a phenomenal growth, is now a member of the North Central Association and in June, 1926, will graduate a class of twenty-one.

The members of the present Board of Education are: Mr. E. D. Smith, president; Mr. Nelson Talbott, Mr. Vernon Lesher, Mrs. George Wood, Mrs. Harry Hunter. The clerk and treasurer is Mr. Speed Warren. The faculty of the elementary school includes Miss Gretchen Smalley, Miss Catherine Mounstephen, Miss Florence Kirshner, Miss Esther Wonderly, Miss Margaret Hendricks, Miss Mary S. Heathman, Miss Wilhelmine Mohme, Miss Ruth Roepken, Miss Grace Henderson, Miss Hazel Snyder, Miss Frances Patterson, Miss Charlotte Seitner, Miss Martha Bonnett, Miss Jeannette Hoover. On the high school faculty there are, besides the principal and superintendent, Mr. Arthur E. Clagett, Miss Emma Cassidy, Miss Henrietta Clunet, Mr. R. T. Donham, Mr. John Dougherty, Mr. T. R. Evans, Mr. John G. Gerwick, Mr. A. W. Henzell, Mr. J. M. Hummon, Mr. E. G. Nellis, Mlle. Eva Merienne, Miss Anne Pope, Miss Eleanor Shaw, Miss Dorothy Warren, Miss Lou Weber, and Mr. J. N. Lewis.

The new Oakwood High School Building, which has attracted considerable State and national attention on account of its distinctive architecture, and its ability to meet the educational needs of a community where private schools ordinarily flourish.

History of Perry Township

This township in form is perfectly square, being six miles on either side, containing thirty-six square miles, and is the full Congressional Township 5, Range 4 (E). It was formed from the townships of Jackson and Madison in 1820, the order being issued by the County Commissioners, March 7, and was named in honor of Com. Perry, of Lake Erie fame.

In appearance its land was not the most inviting to the pioneer, who sought land suitable for immediate cultivation, as they seldom, if ever brought more than barely enough provisions to sustain them until a crop could be raised. There was very little ground here that would suit them, consequently the major part of the township was not settled until all the side-hill land in the neighboring territory had been entered.

This township began to be settled ten or twelve years before it was made a separate body politic, mostly by people of German descent, from Pennsylvania, and a better class of people cannot be found. They are plain, frank, honest, and religious, and the embodiments of health, strength, and energy. Indeed, just such people as are best capable of coping with the many obstacles encountered in subduing a wilderness. If they had to fight, they fought. If they met obstacles, they overcame them, and the more and greater the barriers, the more determined they seemed to press on until they reached the land they sought, and now many of them who came here penniless, have, by industry and frugality, left their children large, cultivated farms, furnished with all modern improvements. Little do we, the children of civilized prosperity, realize the manifold hardships overcome by our fathers when they planted their standard in the forest of the Miami Valley, and reared their primitive cabin in the haunts of savage men and beasts.

The first schoolhouse was a small, unchinked log cabin, in the northern part of Section 29. It was taught by a German named Miller. It was at the time in Jackson Township, none other being in that section of the country, and the youth in the surrounding settlements would come for twelve or thirteen weeks in the year. It was kept up by subscription, two dollars being paid by the parents for each scholar. This was paid in money, produce, or board, as Mr. Miller had to "board around" among the neighboring settlers. Speaking of "neighboring" reminds us that that word had a different meaning then from its meaning today. When John was told to go to Neighbor ————, to borrow his iron oven, or to get some salt, it meant generally for him to go from six to ten miles through forests and over creeks, guided only by his idea of the direction. And one old father tells us that the boys did not grumble then when sent miles on an errand half as much as they do now when they have to cross only one field to get to the neighbors. The next schoolhouse was built in 1814. This was to have been built on land adjoining Mr. Jacob Shank's farm. The logs were hauled and the house partly built when some dissatisfied neighbors objected, and had it moved up the creek. A schoolhouse was built in Section 36, about a quarter of a mile east of New Lebanon. Jacob Diehl went to school there as early as 1823. Teachers, Robert Scatton, John H. Halsmiller (a German). These subscription schools continued, regardless of the various school laws enacted in the State from time to time, nor did they disappear until the new law

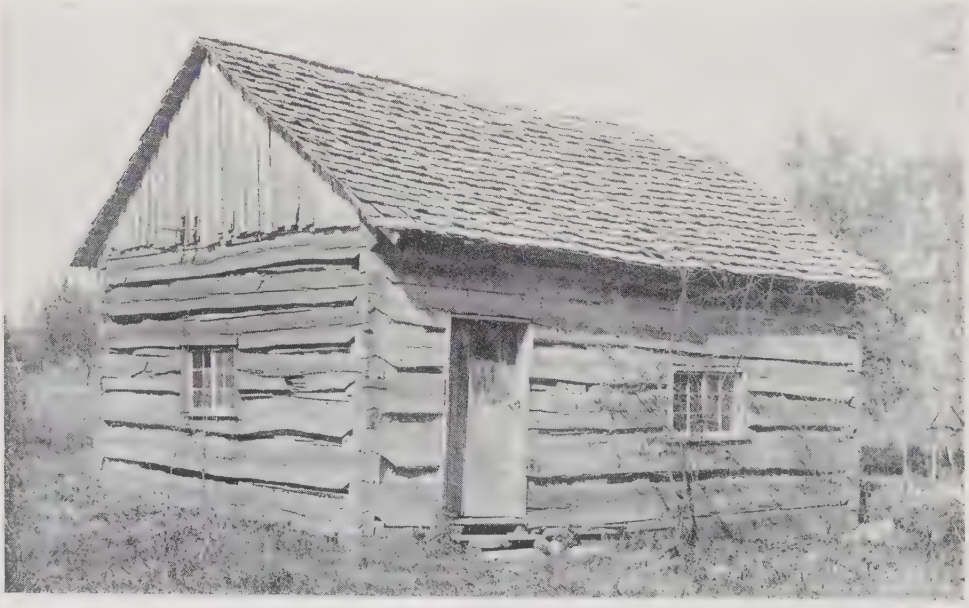
became a fixed fact, the township districted, and houses put up by the State. (Taken from the 1882 Edition Montgomery County History). These districts, later nine in number, were each two miles square, and in time each district had its own house. These last houses were built of brick. The development of these districts is shown in the following paragraphs:

The first brick house in the northeastern part of the township was built along the Wolf Creek Pike by the Old Toll Gate and just across the road from the Dunkard Church, and this house was later used as a residence for a number of years by Joseph Landis and family. The deed for this school was given by David Berst and wife, Susan, May 5, 1858.

When a new house was to be built, about 1882, it was located one-half mile east of the old one, just one mile west of Air Hill and later this district became known as District No. 1.

About the same time another brick house was built two miles west of the one mentioned in the preceding paragraph and this later became District No. 2.

The first house in the Pyrmont District was a log one, as shown in the accompanying cut, built about 1820, and it stood in the northeast corner of the present cemetery grounds. Names of teachers in this school were Mr. Porter, Mr. Sepelcher, and Mr. Mackey, under whose instruction, among others, were John Mundhenk, first sergeant, and P. H. Troxel, captain in the Civil War.



Then came a brick house on the same site, some of the teachers being John Mills, John Hiller, who later became county examiner and county surveyor, Wm. Sodders, and Wm. Ryneck.

While Mr. Hiller taught they had what was called a select school. Among the pupils of this school who entered the teaching profession were Wm. Mundhenk, Robert Hook, Cyrus Cusick, Mrs. Alice (Cusick) Moore, and Mrs. Elmira (Taylor) McDivit.

About 1873 there was a new four-room brick house erected on the "Old Sled Road." This house was placed on the southwest corner of the John Mundhenk farm. Three rooms of the house were occupied for school purposes, being a three-grade school. Mr. Mart Turrel was its first principal.

Mr. Turrel was followed by Dr. S. A. Minnich, later retired from service in the Dayton public schools. Then came Mr. E. P. Vaughn, attorney-at-law, Eaton, Ohio; Dr. D. M. Sanger; H. C. Minnich, now Dean of Miami University; W. E. Genter; W. S. Mundhenk; E. M. Day; F. O. Hartrum, later Superintendent of the Children's Home, Dayton; John Leasure; George Hardin; Samuel Mills; W. D. Bassell; Mrs. Ida (Mundhenk) Minnich; Mrs. Eliza (Mills) Hamilton, and others.

Under the instruction of Dr. S. A. Minnich and Mrs. E. P. Vaughn, quite a number of pupils decided to enter the profession of teaching. Among these we name Mr. Herman S. Fox, late State Representative; W. G. Mills, State Geologist, Columbus; Wm. Hileman; Elmer Hartrum; B. F. Wright; O. E. Wright, who for many years has been the supervisor of music in the Dayton public schools; L. J. Mundhenk; W. N. Fudge; Wm. Ayers; F. O. Garwood, and Mrs. Minnie (Mundhenk) Salters, a graduate of Otterbein.

This four-room house was torn down in 1887 and the present two-room building erected as it stands today.

The first teacher in this building was Mr. Geo. M. Leopold, later State Representative and attorney-at-law in Dayton.

Sometime in the eighties this district, known as No. 3, withdrew from the township and was made a special district, having its own board of education.

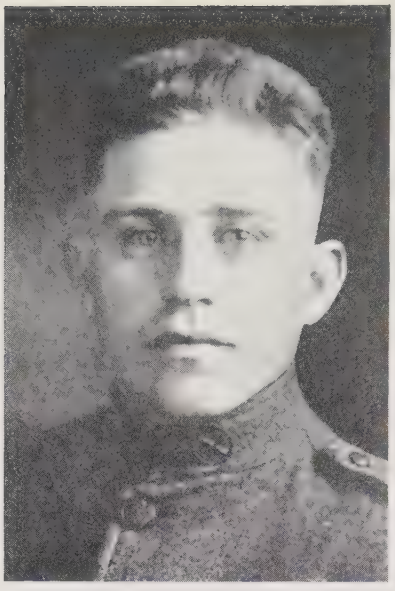
Among the pupils of this school who became teachers, we find H. C. Cusick, C. D. Mundhenk, Perry King, Aldine Propst, James H. Propst, Edith Cox, Ruth Moore, Lynn Garwood, now professor in an Iowa college, Herman Beneke, now professor at Miami University, Mrs. Ora (Pippinger) Getter, Mrs. Bessie (Hamilton) Briney, Mary Libecap, and others. Other teachers of this school before county supervision became effective were: W. H. Leiter, Harvey Miller, L. W. Loy, Arden Arnold, H. A. Klepinger, Geo. F. Kem, W. C. Hatfield, L. J. Mundhenk, H. P. Havens, U. E. Erbaugh, H. D. Caldwell.

Under the Cox Code, which made supervision compulsory, the Pyrmont District was added to Brookville for supervision purposes and Mr. D. A. Puderbaugh became its first superintendent. He served five years, 1914-1919. He was followed by Mr. W. W. Helwig. Then the district was placed under the supervision of Mr. A. A. Maysilles, and last year, 1925-1926, Mr. W. H. Vandervere served as its superintendent.

Among the teachers since 1914 we have W. W. Helwig, Roy Bowser, O. G. Evans, Miss Maude Weidel, Harold Longanecker, and Lewis Purnhagen as principals; and Mrs. Oliver, Miss Mummert, Miss Groff, Miss Vollbrecht, and Miss Rosamond Wyrick in the primary department.

In the county-wide contests this school led the county. The present principal, Mr. Purnhagen, served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

Data on the Pyrmont District has been kindly given by Mr. C. D. Mundhenk, member of the local board of education since 1903.



MR. LEWIS PURNHAGEN

MISS ROSAMOND WYRICK

In District No. 4, the first house was a log one, which later was sold, moved, and converted into a dwelling and is now occupied by Mr. Frank Libecap and family, on the Brookville-Pyrmont Road.

The next house built here was a one-room brick. The attendance in the school at one time was one hundred eight, all in the hands of one teacher, Mr. Orion Hull.

In the eighties the present two-room house was built. In 1916 this district was transferred by the County Board of Education from the Perry Township District to the Pyrmont District.

In District No. 5 a log house built on the Hanshew farm was the first. This was followed by a brick house on the Mill's Corner, and later by the present building.

The first house in what came to be known as District No. 6, was a log house standing at the end of Clark's lane. This was followed by a brick house on the southwest corner of the present school lot, and later the third house, a brick, was built. This building was destroyed by the tornado of March, 1917.

In District No. 7 we find there had been four houses, the first a log, built on or near the site of the first Eversole Church, the second a log on the school lot leased by Abraham Erbaugh so long as it continued to be used for school purposes. Then, about 1840, an eight-cornered brick was built. It is said several unsuccessful attempts were made to burn this house.

About 1860, the fourth house was built, and this remained until this part of the township was made a part of the Johnsville-New Lebanon District.

The house was then sold, torn down, and the lot reverted to the estate from which it was taken.

In District No. 8, the first house was built about 1869. About 1892 the house was sold and is now used as a dwelling. A new house was then built

along the Johnsville Road, farther north on the half-section line, and this one was destroyed by fire. Then the third house was built on the same site. School was discontinued and the building was sold after the formation of the Johnsville-New Lebanon District.

In District No. 9 we are told a log house was built at the intersection of the Sulphur Springs and the New Lexington Roads. A deed by John Wirick and Catherine Wirick, his wife, dated November 3, 1837, in consideration of one dollar gave one-quarter acre in the northeast corner of Section 31, as long as used for school purposes and no longer. Later the present brick structure was built. School was continued here until the territory was made a part of the Johnsville-New Lebanon District.

To Mr. Allen Burket we are indebted for some of the data given on the above districts.

In 1889, for the greater convenience of the people living in the corners of Perry, Madison, Randolph, and Clay Townships, a district was formed by taking a three-quarter-mile square from each township, thus making the district one and one-half miles square. The house, a frame building, was located on the Perry Township land and was known as Four Corner or District No. 10.

In 1898, what was known as District No. 11, two miles long east and west and one mile wide, was formed by order of Probate Court from territory taken from Districts 1, 2, 5, and 6.

A frame house was built in this district.

In 1907, District No. 12 was formed by the Township Board of Education from the southern part of District No. 6 and the northern part of District No. 7, one-half-mile-wide strip being taken from each district.

The Stine Special District was created from territory in the Pyrmont District, Perry Township and Clay Township, Montgomery County, and from Harrison and Twin Townships, Preble County, about 1910.

Mr. D. A. Puderbaugh was its only superintendent and Mr. Roy Bowser was a teacher.

The district was absorbed by the Brookville Consolidated District and the house sold.

The Johnsville Special District was formed from territory taken from Perry and Jackson Townships, this district being two miles long east and west and one mile wide, taking a strip one-half mile wide from each township. The house was located on the Perry Township side.

A SKETCH OF JOHNSVILLE SCHOOLS

By Isaac N. Kepler

Eighty or more years ago on a half-acre of virgin soil about two hundred feet north of Johnsville, "The Little Red Schoolhouse" was erected and a number of stumps that served as bases in games (as well as for oratorical display) dotted the ground.

The roads leading north and south of Johnsville were of earth, not spoiled by any gravel, so during much of the short school year mud was in evidence from rail fence to rail fence. And though we didn't know so much about "slinging mud" in those days, some of the boys were experts at kicking it off of their cowhide boots. An ancient custom permitted the

boys to inclose the end of their trousers in these cowhide boots to keep them from the mud. There was no well, no wood or coal house, no closets. The house was of brick with three windows on each side and two in the west end, a door in the east end. One large wood stove, two rows of seats extending about two-thirds of the length of the room and one short row extending from the stove to the west end of the room. A bench about ten feet long served as a recitation seat. A real blackboard about three by seven feet, a platform about seven by seven feet, a teacher's desk about three by four feet, a chair and a bunch of beech rods set on end in the corner of the room nearest the teacher's desk (purely for ornament), a few shelves for wraps and caps, buckets, baskets. The latter were heavy in the morning, but quite light at the close of school. Some nuggets of chalk for the blackboard (crayons at that time), two brooms and a water bucket and tincup completed the furnishings. These conditions continued until 1868, when the house was razed and a larger and better equipped one was erected on the site of the first one. Before 1886 it was found necessary to build a wing to care properly for the increase in population. For it was in 1886, on May 12, that the cyclone of this date partly wrecked this wing by blowing in the gable end.

Mr. Chas. E. Weaver was teaching a spring term school at the time and he said, "How thankful I am that the storm came at night, when the children were not in the room!" In 1922, the Johnsville-New Lebanon School District was organized and a new building was erected halfway between Johnsville and New Lebanon. This new building was open for school in the fall of 1923.

This brief history notes the passing of "The Little Red Schoolhouse." In 1861, when the Civil War began, the old Johnsville District did its full share in the bloody war that raged till 1865, when the surrender of Generals Lee and Johnson practically ended the strife. Twenty-eight men, in ages from eighteen to forty, enlisted and left their homes, comrades, wives, children, and sweethearts—seven of whom never came back to tell the story of their hardships and sufferings, victories and defeats. One died in Andersonville prison. His two brothers were more fortunate and got back home. Let us hope and pray that never again shall civil strife occur in this fair land of ours.

From our old district have come two dentists, two medical doctors, and seven school-teachers who had little training save what they received in the home school and a short normal course. Five more have had better preparation and are in the work training our young people for the responsibility of citizenship. Let us hope that their efforts will be crowned with success.

To afford school privileges and advantages to the pupils of New Lebanon living on the Perry Township side had always been a difficult problem for the Township Board of Education on account of two creeks without road and bridges, which had to be crossed by the pupils attending school in District No. 7, one mile north of the village of New Lebanon.

To help relieve this situation, a small frame house was built in the corner of the woods, just north of New Lebanon (humorously called Ground Squirrel Academy). The pupils attended school in District No. 7 for the first two months in the fall before bad weather came, and then there was held a four

months' school in the frame building for only the New Lebanon children, and any others living south of the creek.

This arrangement obtained for some years, when a footbridge was built across the larger creek and school was discontinued in the frame building. This footbridge was destroyed by the flood at the time of the cyclone of May 12, 1886.

Then a much larger footbridge was built below the junction of the two creeks and this served to accommodate the children, until the time when some workmen, in trying to straighten the bridge, pulled it down by accident.

The next move for the convenience of the New Lebanon children resulted finally in the joint action of the Perry Township and Jackson Township Boards of Education in transferring a strip of territory two miles long east and west and one-half mile wide from Perry Township District No. 7 and adding the same to Jackson Township District, whose schoolhouse is located just south of the village.

Later, the children who were living in farmhouses which are located on the north side of the creek, in order to avoid the same difficulty which before had confronted the New Lebanon children, were transferred back, or allowed to attend school in District No. 7.

J. REUBEN BEACHLER
Superintendent of Perry Township
From 1895 to 1901.

Supervision was first introduced into the township schools in the year 1894. The first superintendent was Mr. R. M. Small, a graduate in the first class from the Brookville High School. This supervision consisted in visiting the schools and supervising the examinations.

In the second year, 1895, Mr. J. Reuben Beachler was chosen superintendent. By long, hard, diligent work this year a large number of eighth grade pupils, thirty-two in all, succeeded in passing the Boxwell Examination.

This made the next step more easy —the establishment of a high school. This was done and in the fall of 1896 the Perry Township High School was ready for work, in a new room added to the house in District No. 5. At first the work consisted of a three-year course, but a few years later was changed to a four-year course.

It was in 1896 also that Mr. Beachler married Miss Caroline Pansing, of Verona. Mr. Beachler left Perry Township in 1901 to become the head of the Arcanum Schools. Next he filled the superintendency of the Eaton schools; from Eaton he went to Piqua, and then to Nutley, New Jersey, finally ending his work in Otterbein College. His death occurred March 11, 1922.

In all, he spent thirty-three years in his chosen field. He was an

indefatigable worker. It was his custom to spend every summer vacation in college and then carry some college work during the months he taught. He received his A. B. degree from Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, in 1906. He spent two summer terms studying at Harvard, and received his A. M. degree from Columbia University in 1910. He held both Elementary and High School State Certificates.

No greater tribute can be paid his work and character than that given in his own words in his Manual of the Perry Township Schools, in which he says, "The intent of this course is not to destroy a teacher's individuality." He was always proud of his record in Perry Township. Many times he referred to the number of teachers that came from the township during his stay there.

Supt. Beachler was succeeded by Mr. Howard A. Klepinger, also a graduate of Earlham, as superintendent and teacher of the high school. Mr. Klepinger held this position four years, 1901-1905. From Perry Township, Mr. Klepinger went to the Eaton High School. Later he devoted his time and attention to business interests.

H. A. Klepinger

C. D. Newsock

In 1905, Mr. John E. Fox became superintendent and teacher of the high school. He remained here two years and then entered the Brookville High School.

After Mr. Fox left the superintendency, the Board of Education discontinued the high school and employed Mr. C. D. Newsock, of Brookville, to supervise the schools. This was done four years and then the high school was re-established, a three-year course adopted, and Mr. Newsock continued as superintendent and was also the high school teacher for three years.

In the year 1912, music was made a part of the course of instruction and Miss Mary Mundhenk employed as teacher, who relates her experiences in the work as follows:

"In reviewing the introduction of public school music in Perry Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, my memory goes back to those very few who were instrumental in taking the initial steps.

"There were so many children in the country who wanted the knowledge of music who could not afford the expense it incurred. A sense of justice prompted me to approach Mr. U. E. Erbaugh, who was influential in educational work, with a proposition to place music in the schools. Mr. Erbaugh proved to be the right man to put it across.

"Each member of the school board was interviewed, and in the board meeting that followed the subject of music in the schools was discussed, voted upon, and carried four to one. This was in August in 1912. At once I submitted my application to teach the subject in the township for sixty dollars a month. I was hired at my price, to give each of the twelve schools one hour a week.

"Professor O. E. Wright, of the Dayton Schools was always accessible when a difficulty arose in teaching. His suggestions were invaluable in the selection of a text and also melodies of Mother Goose for very little people.

"The 'Song Reader' published by Ginn & Co. was selected for the text. Children in the upper grades were requested to buy the book at a cost of thirty-three cents. The board furnished four copies of the Bradley publication of Mother Goose Melodies, and these I circulated through the schools when I made the weekly visits.

"I had the privilege of this interesting and delightful work four years. At this time my home was with my sister and her family, the Mithoffs. No effort was spared by every member of the family to forward my undertaking. My horse and buggy were made ready every morning and tied to the hitching post on time, even if some one had to miss his breakfast. On my return the program of the day was discussed as to what might be added on the morrow to make it better.

"However, on two occasions I came near being the cause of my own discharge. The first happened a few weeks before school opened. Having been accustomed to horseback riding on the plains, I thought I might ride in this way from school to school. After all equipment had been secured, down to a divided skirt, a short fur coat, and cap for winter, one day I rode out to find the best and shortest route to the schools. Alas! The patrons would not look at me when I met them on the road. So chagrined were they to see a woman riding astride. I hurried home and told my family it would not work. Minnie, my horse, would have to be hitched to a buggy. So she was, and she never failed to pull me through the muddy roads that were then in Perry Township.

"The other happened during the flood, when I weathered every day in that seemingly ceaseless downpour of rain. Every night when I returned home the horse, buggy, blankets, girl, and all were soaked. It caused some depression on my part to start out the next morning in a dark, dreary rain, only to have it repeated. The adventure reached its climax when I made the marvelous crossing of the bridge over Toms Run near Little Richmond, with the water quite up to the floor. But in spite of some hardships and a

few handicaps, throughout the township, public school music struck its chord of harmony and everybody seemed to be a part of an endless chromatic."

In the spring of 1914, U. E. Erbaugh was employed as superintendent. He was employed under Section 4740 of the Cox Code, which permitted the Board of Education to employ a superintendent, devoting one-half time to supervision. The time not devoted to supervision was given to teaching in the high school.

This half time spent in teaching in the high school enabled the Board of Education, by employing another full-time teacher, and making some changes in the course of study, to raise the standard of the classification of the school. These things the Board did and in the fall of 1914, obtained the charter for a second grade high school.

The high school continued as such for three years, when by reason of the transfer of territory from the Perry Township District to the Brookville Village District and to the Pyrmont District, and also taking the territory which was made a part of the formation of the Johnsville-New Lebanon District, there were only about seven and one-half square miles of territory left.

This territory and population were too small to maintain a high school. However, the first-year high school work was carried on one more year, 1917-18, since which time only the grade work has been continued, two teachers being employed. Miss Marguerite D. Wyrick is principal and Miss Madge Henn is primary teacher.

MISS MARGUERITE D. WYRICK
Principal of Perry Township
During Year 1925-26.

The members of the Board of Education at the time of these transfers were: John O. Erbaugh, President; C. L. McNelly, Vice-President; George Eck, Edward Wysong, and Noah Priser; Frank Wellbaum, Clerk.

The teachers at this time were G. D. Mithoff, Miss Edith Rasor, Russell Landis, Miss Carrie Vollbrecht, Miss Sarah Fenner, John Good, Clyde Ullery, Miss Orpha Dadisman, G. M. Fritz, Melvin Stauffer, R. W. Boone, and Miss Helen Harris.

Teachers who taught in the high school were: Miss Hazel Myers, O. G. Evans, and Miss Edna Eckert.

When, in 1914, the County Board of Education established the supervision districts, the Johnsville District was added to the Perry Township District for supervision purposes. When the Johnsville District was absorbed by the Johnsville-New Lebanon District, the Board members were Ira Comer, President, Ward Slyder, B. A. Harris, Chas. G. Smith, Herb Wyrick, and David Tobias, Clerk.

The teachers were John O. Marion and Miss Reatha McNelly.

The first graduates under the provision of the Boxwell Law were C. C. Hay, of District No. 7, and Ora Montgomery, of Pyrmont, class of 1894.

The first graduates from the high school, 1897, were Valeria Mills, George F. Kem, Nellie G. Mills, Myrtle F. Smith, Cassius C. Hay, and Eltha Mills.

The last graduating high school class, in 1917, had three members—Edith Steck, Maude Weidel, and Myra Erbaugh.

In the roll of teachers the names of the following come to mind: John Hiller, Mark Tyrrel, Levi Thompson, Wm. Sodders, Amos Toman, Allen Burkett, Samuel Millikin, C. C. Davidson, retired from Dayton schools, Isaac N. Kepler, Geo. O. Kepler, James Frazee, Wm. Frazee, W. W. Hamilton, Nathan Hart, Noah Lehman, Henry Kilmer, Onon Hull, Henry Shank, Sherman Mills, Dr. D. C. Mills, A. C. Weaver, A. J. Brown, D. A. Landes, M. L. Beard, ex-county treasurer, Clara Smith, Geo. B. Smith, secretary to Col. E. A. Deeds and Mr. Chas. F. Kettering, Geo. F. Kem, a vice-president in the City Trust and Savings Bank, Dayton, Ohio, Perry King, Mrs. Etta (Thompson) Essig, Mrs. Delia (Hardin) McElroy, Mrs. Elizabeth (Aleslagle) Erbaugh, Jonas Shock, Greely Shock, C. A. Garber, with Refiners' Oil Co., Edith Shank, Grace Shank, Chester Rasor, C. R. Millikin, I. L. Erbaugh, Mary (Harry) Slyder, Lauretta Lauver, Ethel Riley, F. J. Weaver, Chas. McNelly, W. F. Denlinger, Dr. C. A. Cusick, Mrs. Ada (Mills) Millikin, Mrs. Vinnie (Bright) Denlinger, Edward Steck, Edith Steck, L. J. Mundhenk, Eva Spitler, Logan Brown, later recorder of Preble County, Edith Kniesley, Helen Wellbaum, Aldine Propst, Altha McNelly, Edward McNelly, N. E. Erbaugh, and C. W. Diehl.

History of Phillipsburg School

The village of Phillipsburg is located on the Dayton-Greenville Pike (known as the State Road) in the extreme northwestern part of Montgomery County and has a very unique history. We are told that at one time a large Indian village occupied the present site and through this village was the famous Indian trail over which General Wayne and his army marched northward. It was during this famous march that the present State road was surveyed, which naturally followed this Indian trail.

The first school was organized in this village about 1828 or 1830. At this time, the village was known as "Center" (which was later changed to Phillipsburg) and was a small hamlet containing two stores and a population of perhaps one hundred inhabitants. The first school building was located just north of the village in a forest on the Farmer farm. It was a small one-room affair built out of small brick. The desks were constructed out of rough hewn planks, which extended around the walls of the room, which were laid on pins that were driven into the walls of the building. The children were compelled to sit on small benches. In the center of the room was a large wood stove; in the end of the room was the blackboard and teacher's desk. During recitation the children came before their "master's" desk and received instruction.

They were instructed in the three R's and Geography. Rigid discipline was demanded and very often severe punishment was dealt out. The boys were punished with "beach sprouts" and "hickory clapboards," while the girls were compelled to kneel on sharp pieces of wood or learn long pieces of poetry or portions of Scripture. Occasionally one of the girls was "flogged" (using term as expressed by one of the old-time pupils) for some minor offense. During the winter, ciphering and spelling matches were engaged in.

The ages of the pupils ranged from five years to twenty-three years and often as many as seventy-five to one hundred were crowded into this building.

This early school was financed entirely by subscription and unfortunately no photograph can be found.

Some of the early instructors were George Sicklefoos, Frank Payne, John DeBra, Frank Albaugh, S. C. Fargo, and others.

About the year 1860 a more modern building was erected. The site finally decided upon was at the east end of town, where the old schoolhouse now stands. This building contained one room, but was larger than the first building. It faced the Phillipsburg pike and had a high platform extending across the front. Two doors, one at each side, led into an anteroom, where the children placed their dinner pails, wraps, etc.

In 1906 the first high school was organized and sessions were held in township hall and Hatfield property. This was a three-year high school and was discontinued at the end of the third year. Six members composed the graduating class. Mr. Reuben Koch was the principal.

In 1918, high school was again continued, sessions being held in the Ortman hall and township house, with Wm. Hollinger, principal.

During 1919, consolidation took place, in which a territory about three

and one-half miles long and three miles wide was united into the present Phillipsburg Consolidated Schools. This territory was taken from three counties, namely, Montgomery, Darke, and Miami. A fine modern plant was constructed at the west end of Phillipsburg and here we have a complete school. The pupils are transferred to and from school by a fleet of trucks.

In 1921 part of Union Township in Miami County was annexed to this district.

Mr. Maysilles served as superintendent for five years, during which time Wm. Hollinger, Morris Fergus, Wm. Helwig, Mr. Young, and H. A. Matheny served as principals.

In the spring of 1924 the Board of Education adopted the 4740 plan and H. A. Matheny was elected superintendent and E. E. Zizert principal. Since that time there has been no change in administration.

We are proud to say that thus far we have suffered no serious financial embarrassment and we do not receive State aid.

Although Phillipsburg has only had a high school for a comparatively short time, yet we are proud of the fact that the Phillipsburg Village school formed the basic foundation for the education of several prominent professional men. In this group are included architects, engineers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and ministers.

We are now looking forward to the time when we will be able to increase the size of our plant, as we have outgrown the capacity of the building.

The Phillipsburg Consolidated District is a comparatively new district and we are expecting good results in the future.

New Consolidated Building at Phillipsburg

School History of Randolph Township

"There is no action without an opposite and equal reaction." Such being the case, a large number of people entered the Ohio territory at the beginning of the nineteenth century, because of certain religious disadvantages in the eastern States. Others were attracted to this region because of its abundant natural resources. The rich farming land of the Stillwater Valley induced many to obtain holdings from the government, which became the homesteads of prosperous farmers.

Life is not complete without the development of the mental faculties. Therefore, schools have been established, that people might have the advantages that a broader knowledge will bring to them. Although the early schools were few and the terms short, the parents were anxious that their children should attend at least a few years. The organization of the first schools was much the same as those in the eastern States. They were financed by subscriptions. This history will be related in three divisions—Elementary Schools, Secondary Schools, and the Period of Consolidation.

PART I. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Should we have come to Randolph Township in 1845 we would have found about seven buildings in which school was being conducted during a few months of the year. Since the village of Union was settled about 1812, it is probable that the first school was located there. This building was made of logs and was located on the north side of the hill which descends eastward from Union. The children sat on benches, rather than in comfortable desks. This building was later replaced by a brick one, which is standing today.

In 1816, a log building was erected about two miles from Clayton. This was known as the Beck District. Another school was located along the Phillipsburg Pike, one and one-fourth miles west of the Dayton and Covington Pike. The building was made of logs, but its use was discontinued about 1845. The children in the northwestern part of the township attended school in a log building two miles west of the one previously mentioned. This house was destroyed by fire in 1845. Some of the teachers who had taught in this school were: Mr. Iams, Marcus Mote, Enos Mote, and David Swank. Mr. Iams was a large man, and so tall that it was necessary for him to stoop in order to pass through a doorway. These two districts, the buildings of which were but two miles apart, were joined and a new house built at their intersection about 1850. School was conducted in this building for many years and it was known as the Acme School. The building has been remodeled into a modern dwelling and is owned by John H. Rinehart.

There was also a school at Clayton. It was located where the U. B. parsonage now stands. The building had two stories. A log school building was located in the southern part of the township, near the intersection of the Salem and Liberty Roads. This was replaced in later years by the building at Happy Corner.

The site of the first building in Englewood (then known as Harrisburg) was located about one square southwest of the later building, which is now owned by the Community Club. The latter building was constructed in 1867. It contained two rooms—two more rooms being added to the west of it several years later.

In government each school district was a unit. A director was elected by the voters of the district. It was his duty to manage the affairs of the school—even the hiring and paying of the teachers and janitors. He also kept the building and grounds in repair and saw that fuel was provided. Several men would meet to saw the wood for the school. This would be ricked in long rows ready for fuel. The teachers were granted a license if they were able to make a satisfactory grade in the examination given by the county.

By 1875 the township had become the unit of the school government. The Board of Education was made up of directors, one from each school district, which met in regular sessions. There were many problems confronting the body of directors for a decade after 1875. Many of the buildings were becoming too small to accommodate the pupils comfortably, as well as being in need of repair. This period might be characterized as one of reconstruction.

In 1877 the independent school district of Union petitioned to become a sub-district of Randolph Township. The request was granted and they entered as Sub-district No. 1. Their building was inadequate. Arrangements were made to construct a new one of three rooms, which was completed in 1879, on the site north of Union, where the building now stands.

The Acme School (Sub-district No. 2) was also outgrowing its walls. About ten years previous, with Jesse K. Brumbaugh as teacher, seventy-five pupils were enrolled. The matter of rebuilding was deferred for a few years. In 1878 the district was divided, the pupils east of the schoolhouse belonging in District No. 2, Beech Leaf, and those west of it in District No. 9, Acme. The new buildings were located along the south side of the Phillipsburg Pike, each about one-half mile from the discontinued school. These buildings were one-room structures. The Beech Leaf School was destroyed by fire in 1901, but was soon replaced by a similar building.

In 1879 the land was purchased and a one-room building erected for the newly formed district of No. 10. This is commonly known as the Cainhill School and is located at the south side of the township.

Much time was spent in deciding upon the location of the new building for Sub-district No. 5. It was built along the Salem Pike, one-half mile west of the Dayton and Covington Pike, in 1879. This was known as the Hyre and later as the Star School. Because of the serious damage done by a tornado, a two-room structure replaced the former one in 1910.

About the time of the Civil War, land was purchased as the site for the school building of Sub-district No. 7. This was located at the south side of the township and was known as the Kimmel School. This also had but one room.

The enrollment of the school in Englewood was greater than the building could easily accommodate. After much deliberation, two new rooms were added to the back of the building which had been erected in 1867. The addition was made in 1881. It is located along the Dayton and Covington Pike.

In 1883 a new three-room structure was built east of Clayton for the pupils of Sub-district No. 8. The present building now stands west of the former building site.

A one-room building was erected at Happy Corner, Sub-district No. 6, in 1859. This building became too small to accommodate all of its pupils.

Randolph Township High School
Randolph Township Grade School
Clayton Grade School
Star School Building
Englewood School Building
Union School Building
Happy Corner Building
Beck Building
Beachleaf Building
Kramer Building
Cain Hill Building
Acme Building
Old Nut Building
Building near Beachleaf building wich was used for school more than 80 years ago
Old Union School Building one of the oldest in the township

A new two-room structure was erected in 1909.

Most of the buildings that were erected during this period are standing today, although they have passed into the possession of private owners and are being remodeled for other purposes. The school terms were seven months in length during the winter. Summer schools of two months were conducted for the pupils of the lower grades. For the most part they were discontinued after 1898.

The earliest curriculum consisted of the three R's, but as schools developed, grammar, geography, spelling, history, and advanced arithmetic were added. Later physiology, now hygiene, civics, and agriculture were introduced in order to give more practical knowledge.

Music has not been neglected in the schools. Many of the early teachers were able to give instruction in music, so that the school hours were made more enjoyable by spending some time in singing. Some schools were able to raise funds for the purchasing of an organ. This added more pleasure to the singing hours, as well as helping the pupils to become more accurate in the rudiments of music.

Feeling a need for more definite instruction, provision was made in 1907 to employ a music teacher. Mr. Monford Free was the first to act in this capacity. He was succeeded by the following: Mrs. Helen Shain-McVey, Mrs. Lillian Minton-Berry, Miss Mineta Conyers, Mr. Edward Sinks, Miss Conner, Mr. Vernon Frieze, Mrs. Esther Harley-Phillipe, and Miss Ruth Woodman.

We must not overlook those who have made it possible for the children of the township to receive an education. The Board of Education was first made up of ten members, one from each school district. Today it is composed of five, elected at large. These men have labored hard and have used much time, for which they received little or no compensation. They have met with much opposition, which has made their progress doubly hard.

The work of the elementary schools was greatly improved by the supervision which they received from the township superintendent, who began his work about 1906. Since that time the work of the district schools has been more closely correlated and greater co-operation exists among the teachers. The names and terms of the superintendents are mentioned more fully in the next division.

The pupils were examined at the end of each semester by a list of questions prepared by the superintendent. If the pupil was able to make satisfactory grades in each subject, he was promoted to the next grade. The eighth grade pupils took the Boxwell-Patterson examination to determine their eligibility to enter high school. The county became the unit of school organization in 1914. All examination lists were prepared by the county superintendent, including the eighth grade lists. Pupils now could write the examination in their own rooms.

The health conditions of the schools were made better by the Board of Health, which made irregular visits to the schools. The members of the board, in company with the health officer, would give advice and instructions to the pupils and teachers. But the sanitary conditions, along with the other conditions, were to be improved by the erection of modern school buildings.

PART II. SECONDARY EDUCATION

Toward the beginning of the last quarter of the eighteenth century, the young people desired to have the advantages of a higher education. To meet this need, the Board of Education appropriated a sum of money and secured a room for the "Select" school. Thus Randolph High School had its beginning in Union, Ohio, in the fall of 1881. During the first year the school was under the supervision of Mr. J. L. Heise. The next year the school was removed to Englewood, where it remained during the school years of 1882-1884. During the first year at Englewood, Mr. B. F. Hershey, and during the second year, Mr. S. A. Minnich, both of Dayton, were the instructors. For the school year of 1884-1885 the school was again moved, and this time to Clayton, Ohio, with H. S. Fox, of Brookville, as instructor. Then the school, still under the supervision of Mr. Fox, was again transferred to Union the following year. After this, 1886, owing largely to disagreement as to location, the school was discontinued.

The cause for success of the school at that time is well expressed by Judge U. S. Martin, who has said, "High school in those days was in no way compulsory, but was attended only by those who had a burning desire to gain knowledge." However, this "burning desire" was not gratified so easily, for as the early students trod the "flowery path of knowledge" they were confronted by many obstacles which are unknown to the student of today. The school of this period was not graded. The eligibility of those desiring to attend was determined by an examination. If the student passed the examination successfully, he was permitted to choose from the subjects offered as many as he could properly handle. The school terms covered a period of six months. The "faculty" consisted of one person, and though all the teachers were considerate, they were also quite firm and demanded first-class work. As to the pupils of this time, it may be said that they were specimens of that rare type who are not afraid of work. They had a purpose in life and they went to school in order to better prepare themselves to carry out that purpose.

After this discontinuance of the high school, the little red schoolhouses of the district were attended by many students between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one. In spite of many discouragements, sentiment was finally created for the re-establishment of the high school at Englewood in 1895. Mr. G. W. Brumbaugh, now a teacher of Parker High School, Dayton, Ohio, was instrumental in reviving the school and was chosen the first instructor. The school of which he came in charge was a graded institution with a three-year course. There were no assistant teachers, and one ordinary sized room furnished sufficient space for conducting the various phases of school activities. The number of students the first year was about forty-two, and since some of these had taken high school courses previously, a senior class was formed the first term. This senior class of 1896 consisted of six members and was the first to graduate from Randolph High School. The next year the school was moved to Clayton and was instructed by Mr. W. J. Battenfield. Mr. Perry W. Klepinger, now a dentist of Dayton, was the only student graduated in 1897.

The school was now transferred again to Englewood, and Mr. H. W. Mumma, of Dayton, was secured as superintendent. During the seven years

of his supervision the school made important advancement in various directions. In 1901 the school was moved from a one-room apartment to a new two-room addition to the Englewood school building. By adding a new member to the faculty, the high school slipped into the ranks of the first-class high schools, and was granted a charter, December 3, 1903.

The superintendent following this administration was Mr. W. H. Leiter, of Dayton. The students soon came to learn that he was an able teacher and interested in their personal welfare. Mr. Leiter closed his work in 1908, after having served a period of four years.

Harry E. Iams, of Trotwood, now a partner of Victor E. Herter Co., Dayton, was chosen the successor of Mr. Leiter. In 1909, Miss Grace M. Kalter, of Dayton, was secured as assistant teacher. Her congenial disposition and unusual scholarship made her a general favorite. She deserves special mention because she served the students of Randolph High School for a longer period than any other teacher. She closed her work in 1918. Soon after she married David Munson, a college professor. In the year 1912, a third member was added to the faculty. The school during Mr. Iams' supervision continued the upward climb, but the climax was reached in 1912, when the township voted an appropriation of $15,000 for the erection of a new high school building. The new building was completed in the spring of 1914, after which the teachers and students were able to enjoy more room and better equipment.

W. S. CAMPBELL
Superintendent of Randolph Township, 1913-1917.

In 1913, Mr. W. S. Campbell, of Adams County, Ohio, accepted the position as superintendent. He was interested in having the children take advantage of school privileges and thus increase the enrollment of the high school. Today Mr. Campbell is teaching in one of the high schools of Columbus.

The next man to take the helm, 1917, was Charles F. Meyers, who had formerly taught at Brookville. He proved to be an able man and lent much inspiration to those in his classes. In 1919 he became superintendent of the Madison Township schools and holds the position today.

The work of these superintendents was not an easy task. They spent one-half the day instructing high school classes. The other half was devoted to supervision in the grade schools. This necessitated spending much time and patience in driving from one district school to another. Though these supervision periods were few, the advice and help given to the teachers aided in raising the instruction to a higher standard. Incidentally the township became more unified, creating the desire, and finally making it possible to consolidate the schools in order to have more intensive supervision.

In the fall of 1919, Mr. D. A. Puderbaugh, former superintendent of Brookville, became superintendent of Randolph Township, devoting all of his time to administrative work. Through his efforts the schools were consolidated into four districts and later into two districts.

With the increase of students and teachers it was possible to broaden the curriculum in order to meet the desires and needs of the pupils. With the raising of the age limit, it was necessary to introduce subjects of a vocational nature for those who were not interested in higher education. The study of Manual Training was introduced in 1914 and has continued to be a favorite subject. The subject of Home Economics had its beginning in 1915, but because of limited equipment very little was done until two years later, when a specially trained teacher was secured. No study of foods was taken up until 1920, when the class prepared a hot dish for lunch. In 1922, special equipment was secured so that laboratory work could be given. At the same time the entire school lunch was prepared and has been served each school day since that time.

The music has been a subject of interest to many. The teachers who gave instructions in the grades also met music classes in the high school.

The literary work has been fostered and developed by the holding of regular meetings every two weeks. Every year since 1914-15 the school has been participating in the county literary contests. Randolph High School has also been a participant with other schools in various sorts of athletics. In the season of 1924, the Randolph team won the county championship in baseball and holds the silver cup.

Randolph Township has many reasons to feel proud of the products of her schools. Men and women, living in various quarters of the globe find their minds wandering back to Randolph Township when school days are recalled. They are occupied in practically all the means of livelihood. Among the many who deserve honorable mention are Harry Ewing, Y. M. C. A. Secretary, Buenos Ayres, South America; Walter Sinks, missionary in Kian, China; Harley Brooks, missionary in India; G. W. Brumbaugh, teacher, Parker High School, Dayton; Noah J. Brumbaugh, at the head of a department in the Patent Office, Washington, D. C.; S. B. Heckman, examiner of mentally defective children, New York City; Harry R. O'Brien, magazine writer and professor in Ames College, Iowa; Edwin O'Brien, Iowa State Agriculture Station, Iowa; John Brumbaugh, Supervisor of Schools, South Bend, Indiana; E. C. Harley, dealer in wholesale groceries, Dayton; U. S. Martin, Judge, Dayton; Bert Buckley, Attorney, Dayton; Volney A. Troxel, Dayton; W. H. Miller, Attorney, Dayton; Robert Kline, civil engineer and contractor, Dayton, and Charles Kline, head engineer of the sewer system, Dayton, Ohio.

At present the high school is composed of pupils from the Randolph and Clayton Districts. A joint school board is composed of members chosen from the two local boards. The enrollment of the school is 140. The present teachers are: E. G. Beason, Principal; Homer Wagner, Russell L. Bagwell, Laura Kennedy, Ruth Woodman, and Hazel Brumbaugh. The course of study and the organization of the school meets the standards and requirements of the State Department of Education.

RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

W. Zizert

W. Steck

J. Beachler

A. Wetzel

C. Smith

CLAYTON CONSOLIDATED BOARD OF EDUCATION

PART III. PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION.

We are living in a period of specialization. Industry is becoming more centralized, calling for a higher type of specialized workers. The school system has not been exempt from this great movement. For the last few years great strides have been made in order to get all pupils and teachers consolidated into a large school unit. The first step toward consolidation was made in 1919, when the patrons of the northwest side of the township, Acme District, petitioned to become a part of the special district of Phillipsburg. They desired to have the advantages which the new consolidated school would bring to them. Their request was granted and thus two and one-half square miles of the Randolph territory was united with the Phillipsburg District. The following year steps were made toward the consolidation of the schools in Randolph Township. The township was divided into four districts, making use of the larger buildings and discontinuing the use of the smaller ones. The pupils were conveyed by auto busses, furnished by the township, to the schools at Union, Englewood, Clayton, and Star. The high school pupils from the four districts were brought to Englewood. These buildings were inadequate for the new conditions.

In 1922 the Clayton District became indedependent and was formed into a special district. They erected a large building for the better accommodations of their pupils. The building contains an auditorium which makes it possible for the school to give special programs as well as to support a lyceum course. The enrollment of the school is 160. The present teachers are: Mr. Brown, Principal; Mrs. Saylor, Dawn Bucklew, Mildred Sluterbeck. The members of the Board of Education are: Jesse O. Beachler, President; Albert Wetzel, Vice-President; Wm. H. Zizert, Clerk-Treasurer; Walter Steck and Charley Smith. The former districts which are now included in the Clayton School are: Clayton, Beck, Happy Corner, Kimmel, and Cainhill.

The Randolph District is now made up of the former districts of Star, Englewood, Union, Beech Leaf, remainder of Acme District and a small area of Union Township, Miami County. In 1924, provision was made for the erection of a centralized building. This building is located midway between Englewood and Union. It was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1924. The building gives space for eight classrooms, a manual training room, domestic science room, office, library, an equipped rest room, dressing rooms provided with shower baths, and a combination auditorium and gymnasium. The gymnasium is used by the high school for basket ball and gymnastics for both girls and boys. The elementary school children make use of it in giving many public programs, as well as for physical education. Their play in the gymnasium is supervised at all intermission periods.

In 1924 it was made possible for the children of the grades and the high school to receive weekly Bible instruction. It is supported by subscriptions from the patrons. The work is under the direction of the County Sunday-school Association. Many children are receiving regular religious instruction who would not be getting it in any other way. It is the aim of the school to develop the pupils morally and spiritually, as well as mentally and socially.

With the added equipment, it has been possible to give instruction in manual training to the boys of the seventh and eighth grades. Also the

girls of the two highest grades are being given weekly instruction in domestic science. In 1924 the children were given opportunity by the Parent-Teachers Association to purchase a hot dish in addition to their lunch brought from home. In 1925 it was made possible that the entire lunch could be purchased at the school. The management of it is under the direction of the school organization. Through the larger unit, the centralized school, it is possible to develop the child in every way to a much better advantage than it was in the smaller schools, with so little equipment.

As has already been mentioned, Supt. D. A. Puderbaugh deserves much credit for the consolidation of our schools. He discontinued his work in this township in 1925, having moved to Belmont a few months previous. He is now continuing his work as superintendent of Van Buren Township.

He was succeeded as superintendent by Mr. E. G. Beeson, of Vandalia, Ohio. Mr. Beeson is a man of wide experience, having spent a few years (1909-1912) as a teacher in the Philippines. Later he served as teacher and superintendent in Van Buren and Butler Townships. He devotes some time each day, in addition to conducting high school classes, to the supervision of classroom work, endeavoring to raise the quality of the work to a high standard. He is a man of foresight, and sees great possibilities for the greater development of education in Randolph Township.

The present teachers of the Randolph Grade School are Mr. Orville Riffle, Principal, Erma Hissong, Leotta Stonerock, Bessie Flory, Estella Fueston, Isabel Wilson, Mildred Wenger, Blanche Berry, and Nettie Miller, Bible instructor.

The present members of the Board of Education are: B. F. Studebaker, President, Frank Binkley, Charles O. Lightner, Raymond A. Butz, and Marion Hoover.

Thus the schools of Randolph Township have steadily developed from the district unit to the unified system of consolidation. The Boards of Education and the teachers have and are co-operating to give the pupils every advantage that will make them successful and loyal citizens of our country. There is nothing greater than to feel that one has helped to form a worthy character. "The teacher's reward is not realized in dollars and cents, but in the satisfaction to some extent of believing that he has helped some young lives by precept and example to a worthier and higher ambition to make a success in life."

May the standards and ideals of our school continue, in order that the men and women sent out will be of as high a type as those who have gone out in the past.

Early History of Van Buren Township

March 24, 1803, the Legislature of Ohio enacted a law dividing Hamilton and Ross Counties. By this act, Montgomery, Butler, and Green Counties were created.

Montgomery County was named in honor of General Richard Montgomery, who was killed in the assault on Quebec, December 31, 1775.

Four townships were created: Washington, German, Dayton, and Elizabeth.

Dayton Township included all the territory east of the Miami River to the Green County line and north of Washington Township to a line near to, and parallel to, the north line of the eighth range of the township.

Thomas Davis was the first to settle in what is now known as Van Buren Township.

D. C. Cooper raised the first hogs in the county, in 1799, on his farm in Van Buren Township. They were the old-time, long-legged elm peelers.

D. C. Cooper also located the first saw mill and grist mill on his farm south of Dayton. This was the only mill for miles around. People were compelled to take their turn at this mill and sometimes they were compelled to wait an entire day before they were able to get their work done.

In 1803, Dayton was designated as the county seat of Montgomery County. The first school in the County was held September, 1799, in a block-house at the head of Main Street. Benjamin Van Cleve was the first teacher.

June 26, 1841, Van Buren Township was separated from Dayton Township by the County Commissioners. As late as 1815, they only had three months of school. The teacher boarded around and the scholars had no certain book that they were to use. Teaching out of a dozen different text-books was a difficult proposition. The main branches were spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Spelling matches were considered the main tests of an education.

Belmont School

By W. C. Henger

The first school in the Belmont District was located at the southeast corner of what is now Overlook and Edison Avenues. This was a one-room building that was used to house all grades. This building was used until about 1869, when a new building was erected where the present new building now stands. This new building was a two-story building with one room down and one room up. The upper room was used for the more advanced grades and the lower grades were taught on the ground floor.

Mr. Levi Jordan is the first teacher of whom we have any record and he was followed, in 1868, by John Smith.

They tell of having played a practical joke on Mr. Smith. At Christmas he seemed averse to treating, so the larger scholars secured possession of the building and locked him out. After quite a while he decided to treat and was given possession of the room again.

Mr. Smith in turn was followed by Mr. Walters, Mr. Real, and Frank Hosier. Mr. Hosier later became mayor of Dayton and at present holds an important position in Washington, D. C.

Hannah Patterson is the first lady to have taught in the Belmont School. Mr. Jordan again took up the teaching profession. He was the last teacher in the old building and the first one to occupy the new building. Mr. Jordan used his influence to secure this building and after teaching one year, he decided to go into other lines of work. Mr. Jordan was succeeded by Mr. Van Pelt, now an honored attorney of Dayton. He was principal from 1871-73. Mr. Van Pelt then went to Lebanon and graduated from that school in 1874.

David Bateman taught the school during this year and then Mr. Van Pelt came back and taught the school during the year of 1874-1875, after which he took up the study of law and then went to the Germantown High School. Mr. Van Pelt was followed by C. C. Davidson and John Truesdale.

About the year 1880, through the influence of Levi Jordan, Belmont became a special school district and established a three-year high school course.

J. C. Morris was the first principal in the high school. The upper room in the high school department was placed in one of these rooms. Three teachers were employed to carry out this plan.

The high school department was continued under the principalship of Marie Jacque (nee) Kumler, who later became a recognized institute lecturer.

Clara Sawyer, who is still teaching in the Dayton schools, took up the work and she in turn was followed as principal by J. B. Heis, Alice Manning-Fauver, M. S. Bassett, J. D. Beard, and M. L. Beard. The high school department was discontinued in 1896. The City of Dayton was offering better high school advantages than the school at Belmont could offer, so the Board decided to pay their tuition and give them the best advantage possible.

C. W. Plessinger, recently elected County School Superintendent, was principal of this school from 1901 to 1904. He in turn was followed as principal by Mr. Coblentz, Pearl Baker Buvinger, Drewey Wysong, Mabel Graham, F. P. Foster, Matte Watkins, and Harry P. Gross.

The present building was erected in 1894 and several additions made since.

The district remained a separate district until 1922, when the financial condition of the Board became such that it was impossible to maintain a school that could accommodate the growing suburb. It was voted back into Van Buren Township in 1922.

While Belmont was a special district, the Belmont Board was instrumental in organizing what is now the Cleveland School. A building was built by this Board in 1894 and was under the supervision of the Belmont Board for several years. It then became a separate district and was known as the Oakland Special School District of Mad River Township.

Belmont is one of the growing suburbs of Dayton. Her schools now require sixteen full-time teachers and five part-time special teachers. Six buildings are used for housing pupils and a new building will be under construction in a very short time.

The present faculty is: Harry P. Gross, W. C. Henger, H. P. Snapp, John S. Heeter, Osie Burke, Marie Filburn, Alma Jefferies, Minerva Weimer, Marguerite Weller, Geneva Pierce, Catherine Roller, Daisy Cambell, Romaine Greathouse, Elizabeth Hull, Glenna Kimmel, Ethel Lawson; Mr. Rumanoczy, Music; Marguerite Wetherill, Art; Ruth Moore, Domestic Science; Miss Miller and Miss Eidemiller, Religious Training; H. P. Snapp, Eighth Grade and Manual Training.

New Belmont Grade Building Under Construction, to Be Finished in August, 1927.
Walker and Norwich, Architects.

Carrmonte

By Mrs. Mabel Barnes

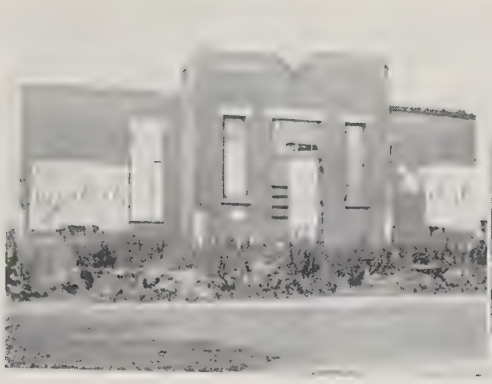
The present Carrmonte school system is a combination of District No. 10 and the old Carrmonte school buildings. The two-room No. 10 building was built in 1881 and was located on the Springboro Pike. The No. 10 building was recently struck by lightning and only a part of the four walls remains to bring back memories of the happy days spent there by the older residents of the community. District No. 10 was the scene of many a hot debate by some of the older leading educators of the county. A. A. Maysilles, D. W. Klepinger, Drewey Wysong, and many others debated pro and con the leading questions of that day before large crowds that used to assemble here.

Following are some of the teachers who led the students of No. 10 along the flowery path of knowledge (fifth to eighth grade teachers): Mr. Shire, D. W. Klepinger, Mr. Razor, Wm. Beard, Frank Olt, Samuel Hohn, Edna Landis, Elizabeth Eckley, Harry Koehler, Drewey Wysong, Bessie Dornbush Hay, Mr. Dittmer, and Sada Baker; (First to fourth grade teachers) Miss Smith, Elsie Kolb, Miss Barr, Maggie Utz, Edna Landis, Chester Routsong, Stella Wiley, Sada Baker, Daphne Barnes, Maud McClain, Rose Baker, Harriet Routsong, Mrs. Lee Jones, and Mabel Barnes.

After the modern buildings were built at Carrmonte and Pasadena it was felt that the students of No. 10 should be given the privilege of these modern advantages. Because of this, the students of No. 10 were brought to Carrmonte in the spring of 1923 and combined with the enrollment of Carrmonte at that time, forming a system similar to the present one.

There have been different stages in the development of the present Carrmonte School. Close to where the four-room old building now stands there was formerly a one-room building. First, two rooms of this old building were built and later two more rooms were added. Beginning at this stage, the growth of the village of Carrmonte became very rapid and this led to the demand of a new schoolhouse. Ultimately a bond issue was passed and the present new Carrmonte building was built. The teaching staff at the present time is composed of the following: Mr. J. M. Holt, Principal, Wilbur Lane, Lilly Balzhiser, Sada Baker, Rose Baker, Mabel Barnes, Grace Norris, Louise Treharne, and Eleanor Wilke. Kindergarten, Home Economics, Manual Training, Art, Music, and Religious Training are now a part of the regular Carrmonte School curriculum.

Beginning this year, the upper grades have been departmentalized and the foundation for a Junior High School has been developed. It is felt that the Carrmonte School is keeping pace with the development along other lines in the village. It is hoped that the people of Carrmonte will feel that their school system is as vital as any other development in the community and must always keep pace with their forward movement.



Remains of District No. 10

Old Hall in Beavertown, Former High School.

East Building on Present Site in Carrmonte.

West Building on Present Site in Carrmonte.

Pasadena School—Van Buren Township

By Rose Miller

NOTE—In this article we have tried to make mention of all teachers employed and all pupils who have become teachers or who have been successful in their respective field. If there have been any omissions, they were unintentional, as we have found it impossible to trace every one.

Pasadena School is located southeast of Dayton in Pasadena Plat, near Beavertown. This district comprises the former districts of One, Six, Nine, Eleven, and Twelve. Of these, Districts Nine and Eleven are the oldest.

District Nine was located on the Indian Riffle Road, about one-half mile east of Beavertown. The first building was a one-room structure. This was replaced about fifty years ago with a two-room building, at which time it became what was then called a graded school.

Some of the instructors following this change were: Messrs. Clarence Cathcart, Floyd Foreman, Lanty Weaver, Yarnell Ellis, and in the primary grades, Mrs. Samuel Souders, Mrs. Jennie Latin, Miss Effie Brown, (Upper Grades), Miss May Krowell, later principal of the Edison School, Dayton, Mrs. Olive Dean, Mrs. Margaret Maynor, Mrs. Lillie Baker Douglas, Miss Patterson, Mrs. Minnie Souders Darst.

About the year of 1890 a two-year high school course was added to the regular grade curriculum. This was continued until 1902, when a four-year course was offered and the high school was conducted in the G. A. R. Hall in Beavertown until the four-room structure in Fairmont was completed and ready for use in September of 1906.

The instructors that served from 1890 to 1918, when the school was closed, were the following: Principals, Messrs. W. O. Smith, Mott Souders, ——— Sechrist, Edwin Kolb, Charles Fox, John E. Smith, Harley Havens, Ray Murlin, U. S. Penny, Chester Routsong, Mrs. Martha Ewery Hamilton, Mr. William S. Snyder, Mrs. Mary Darst Driehurst, Miss Rose E. Miller. The primary teachers were: Mrs. Grace Real Marshall, Mrs. Bertha Bridgman Rutledge, Mrs. Martha Hamilton, Mrs. Florence Clayton Dean, Mrs. Mary Shroyer Morris, Mrs. Ella Wasser, Mrs. Kathryn Neibel Routsong, Mrs. Mattie Bahns Beeson.

During the latter years, prior to consolidation, a Mothers' Club was organized, hot lunches were served to the pupils, a piano was purchased, new books were added to the library, and the interior of the rooms were changed so that the location of the windows would comply with the laws governing proper lighting.

It is interesting to note that many of the students have won distinction for themselves and their community by having attained success in their chosen vocations. Many of them entered the profession of teaching, one of whom was Mrs. Minnie Souders Darst. Mrs. Darst's teaching experience has been varied, having specialized in kindergarten work, and having taught all grades from kindergarten to normal School and university. She now has charge of an Americanization School at Crockett, California. She has traveled extensively, going to Europe in the service of Red Cross during the period of the World War. She has been actively engaged in social service work in the cities in which she has lived, and is also a very interesting lecturer.

Others were: Mrs. Jennie Latin, Mrs. Grace Marshall, Mrs. Olive Dean,

Mrs. Margaret Maynor, Mrs. Bertha Rutledge, Mrs. Lillie Baker Douglass, Mrs. Martha Hamilton, Mrs. Florence Dean, Miss Rose Miller, Mrs. Mary Darst Driehorst. Each of the above mentioned returned to the home school as teachers. Mrs. Rutledge also taught at Belmont and Vandalia. Mrs. Douglass attended Wittenberg College and taught in Springfield, Ohio. Mrs. Hamilton attended Miami University and taught at West Carrollton. Mrs. Driehorst attended Oberlin College, specializing in music, which she enjoys teaching as an avocation. She also taught in the Oberlin High School. Miss Wilhelmine Mohme attended Miami University and taught in Wayne Township, District No. 1, Van Buren Township, and Pasadena School. She then attended Teachers' College, Columbia University, and is now a member of the Oakwood Faculty. Miss Louise Darst attended Oberlin College, following which she held positions as chemist in munition plants in New Jersey, West Virginia, and Ohio, during the World War. Since she has taught in high schools in Centerville, Ohio, Murfreesboro, Illinois, and Euclid Village, Cleveland. Miss Myrtle Souders attended Wittenberg College and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She is known as a successful teacher of music in Dayton and vicinity. Mrs. Laura Kolb Shank was employed as teacher at District No. 12.

Those who are prominent in other fields are: Rev. Frank John, an esteemed and prominent minister in the United Brethren Church; Mr. Mason Prugh, prominent as a farmer, as an active member of the United Presbyterian Church, as a Sunday-school worker, as a Commissioner of Montgomery County, and as president of the State Board of County Commissioners; Hon. Frank Hosier, a teacher, lawyer, and former Mayor of the City of Dayton. Three of the alumni have chosen the medical profession: Dr. Frank Oldt, a medical missionary to China; he is the Health Commissioner of the Canton District, thus being responsible for the sanitation of the cities and the health of the thousands and thousands of inhabitants thereof, in addition to his official duties as a regular missionary; Dr. Mott Souders, first, a teacher, teaching at Districts Nine and Six in Van Buren Township; after completing his medical course he was appointed as the official physician for the Northern Pacific Railroad and also the Northern Pacific Mines, with headquarters at Red Lodge, Montana, at which city he has built and equipped a hospital and sanitarium, in order that he may efficiently care for his patients; Dr. W. H. Sells, a successful and prominent dentist, having offices in Dayton. Miss Margaretta Murray became a nun and is devoting her life to the work in the hospitals of her church.

Mr. John MacQuigg has devoted much time to music, belonging to the famous Westminster Choir. Mrs. Florence Dean attended Professor A. B. Shauck's Normal School and taught at District No. 9. Leaving the teaching profession, she entered Jacobs Business College and was employed at the M. D. Larkin Company. Miss Rose Miller attended Prof. Shauck's Normal School, summer sessions at Heidelberg, O. S. U., Miami University, and Wilmington College. She taught at Districts No. 11, 1, and 9, and is now principal at Pasadena. Mrs. Pauline Caskey Darr attended Cedarville College and taught at Pasadena. She later moved to California, where she continued her training and is now employed as a teacher there. Mr. E. Friend Couser attended Manchester College and Bethany Bible School. He was ordained as

a minister in the Brethren Church, taught at Pasadena School, and is to be a member of the Fairmont High School faculty this coming year.

District No. 11 was located on Dorothy Lane in Fairmont, on the present site of the Van Buren Township High School. Three different buildings have been erected at this location; two of these were one-room structures. Then the need for a larger building arose. At this time the Board of Education was considering a site for a new high school building, as the G. A. R. Hall which was being used as such, was entirely inadequate. So they decided to build a building large enough to accommodate the grades and the high school also. This is the building which is known now as the old high school building.

The instructors who taught prior to 1906 were: Messrs. Ryne William Creager, Michael Swadener, Henry Rider, Louis Foreman, Hamilton Romspert, John Rollin, Updike, Walter Lohman, Curtis Samuels, and Charles Fisher; the Misses Elizabeth Miller, Bertha Morris, Ruth Wuichet, Melvia Snyder, and Enola Morris.

In September of 1906 the term opened with Miss Enola Morris as principal of the grades and Mrs. Bessie Dornbusch Hay in charge of the first four grades. Following these as principal were: Mrs. Hay, Miss Esther Wonderly, Miss Minnie Balzhiser, who taught grades seven and eight and some high school subjects.

As primary teachers were: Miss Williams, Miss Rose Miller, Mrs. Driehorst, Mrs. Madge Prass, Miss Helen Kelsey, teaching the first six grades.

This district seems to have trained many of its students for business activities. Some of the many successful ones are: Mr. Clarence Neibel, a progressive farmer and a member of the Board of Education for a period of twenty-five years; Mr. Clement Shroyer, a member of the Board of County Commissioners; Mr. George Shroyer, the leading merchant in sporting goods and automobile agent of Dayton; Charles Wonderly, a successful business man of Colorado; Mr. Harry O'Neill (deceased), a leading tobacco merchant; Thomas Lehman (deceased), was a prominent jeweler of Dayton; Messrs. Herman and Burton Rike, paper merchants; Mr. Charles Jackson, well-known undertaker of Dayton; Messrs. George, Charles, and Jacob Bernhart, leading coffee merchants of Dayton; Messrs. Henry and Clarence Himes, well-known and prosperous milk dealers; Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Zink, skilled butchers and meat merchants; Messrs. Frederick Neibel and Virgil Routsong, real estate.

The following chose to enter the teaching profession: Mrs. Madge Routsong Prass, taught in Van Buren Township and also in the Oakwood village school; Miss Esther Wonderly, also taught in the township schools and has been a member of the Oakwood faculty for several years; Mrs. Bessie Dornbusch Hay, taught at Fairmont and was principal at District No. 10; she also taught in Butler Township; Miss Harriet Routsong was a member of the Westminster Choir and supervisor of music in the grade schools for several years; Mrs. Kathryn Neibel Routsong graduated from Miami University, taught at No. 9, Carrmonte, and Pasadena; Mrs. Mary Neibel Rohlfs attended the Western College and Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, after which she taught music in Dayton and vicinity; Mr. Paul Rout-

song attended Ohio State University, taught in Fairmont High School, and is now Dean of the Dayton Y. M. C. A. night schools.

District No. 12 is located on the Stroop Road in what is known as Delco Dell. After it was closed by the Township Board of Education, it was purchased by the Moraine School authorities and is used by them for their Intermediate Department.

Those who taught in this district were: Messrs. William Baker, Joseph Walters, William Henderson, Miss Laura Duckwall, Messrs. John Snyder, George Romspert, Allen Romspert, Miss May Summers, Messrs. H. E. Clark, Howard Stebbins, Miss Libbie Edmonds, Miss Martha Eckley, Miss Mary Barr, Mr. G. W. Sigafoos, Miss Marie LeFevre, Miss Edna Showalter, Miss Laura Kolb, Miss Daphne Barnes, Miss Berniece Clark, and Mr. Clifford Henger.

The pupils of this district who became teachers were: Mr. Chester Routsong attended Western Reserve College, and taught at District No. 9, and later became township superintendent, at the same time teaching in the high school. He is now located in Washington, where he was first connected with the War Risk Insurance Office; later he entered the field of real estate. Mr. Ralph Routsong attended Ohio State University, taught in Fairmont High School, spent some time in agricultural work in Texas, and is now a district manager for the Duro Pump Company, located at South Bend, Indiana. Mr. Emil Barnes is now a successful druggist of Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Carl Routsong is a member of the well-known undertaking firm of Bradford and Routsong. Mr. Dwight Barnes attended Ohio State University, enlisted with Battery D and served with same until close of World War, taught at Fairmont High School, became principal of same, and is now the Superintendent of Van Buren Township schools. Mr. Roy Routsong recently graduated from Ohio State University and has joined the sales force of the Duro Pump Company. Mrs. Blanche Barr Routsong taught at District No. 10 and in the Carrmonte School. Mrs. Daphne Barnes Prugh returned to the home school, where she taught for a number of years. Mr. Fred Stroop is now connected with the Dayton Power and Light Company.

Owing to the number of pupils and the great distance some were obliged to go to attend District No. 9, at Beavertown, it was thought advisable to divide the territory and erect two other buldings. So, during the year 1881-1882 this plan was carried out and new buildings were erected at Districts No. 1 and 6. In each case the land was donated to the Board of Education. The land for No. 1 was given by Mr. Thomas L. Prugh, for No. 6 by Mr. Isaac LeFevre.

The first instructor employed at District No. 6 was Miss Tenny Kepler. Those following here were: Miss Rosie Yoe, Mr. Charles Stebbins, Mr. Cusick, Mr. Joseph Hatfield, Mr. Irvin Frizzell, Misses Agnes McLain, Enola Morris, Rose Hughes, Susanna Lodge, Onda Cassel, Mrs. Marie LeFevre Snyder, and Mrs. Melvia Snyder Routsong.

Number 6, though a small school in point of numbers, has two doctors on its alumni roll. Dr. Lyman Kauffman studied at Ohio State University and Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. After spending about one year at Miami Valley Hospital, he has since opened offices of his own on Brown Street, Dayton. He is also an assistant of Dr. Giffen, Specialist. Mr. Law-

The Pasadena School now houses all the pupils from the schools shown in the above pictures.

rence Kauffman, attended Ohio State, taking an agricultural course. He was formerly County Agent in Jackson County. He is now at Ohio State as their sheep specialist. Dr. Samuel Pyper attended O. S. U. and Cincinnati Vetinary College. He was City Vetinarian of Dayton, then Dairy and Food Inspector. He recently accepted the position of Dairy and Food Inspector of Cincinnati. The following became teachers and returned to District No. 6 as instructors: Mrs. Marie LeFevre Snyder, Miss Agnes McLain, Mr. Irvin Frizzell. Mrs. Esther Young Mitchell attended the Detroit School of Music and, returning, became the Music Supervisor of Van Buren Township. Mr. Willard Groby attended Heidelberg University and taught at Fairmont High School. Miss Edith James attended the Grace A. Greene Normal School of Dayton and is teaching at Pasadena School.

Some of the teachers of District No. 1 were: Mr. John E. Smith, Mr. Joseph Hatfield, Mrs. Mamie Snyder Harper, Mrs. Anna Williamson, Miss Schnebly, Miss Rose Miller, Mrs. Mattie Beeson, Miss Wilhelmine Mohme. This school was closed for a time and the pupils were transported to No. 6. That fact accounts for the fewer number of teachers employed here.

One of the alumni of this district is found in far-away Egypt, having gone there as a missionary for the United Presbyterian Church. This is Miss Ruth Williamson, who was a kindergarten teacher previous to her appointment as a missionary. Mr. William Snyder attended Miami University, Kansas State University, taught in Van Buren Township at District No. 9, and is now an instructor in New Taer High School, Williamette, Illinois. Mr. B. F. Snyder, Jr., is well known as a member of the choir of the First Baptist Church, and also of the Dutch Club, a prominent musical organization of Dayton. Mrs. Melvia Snyder Routsong attended Muskingum College and taught at Districts No. 11 and 6. Mr. T. K. Prugh attended Monmouth College and Ohio State University. Choosing agriculture as his vocation, he joined his father in managing their farms. He is a member of the Farm Bureau, served on the Board of Education, and is prominent in church organizations. Mrs. Frances Prugh Routsong attended Monmouth College and taught music and French in Fairmont High School. Mr. Russell Wagner, after his graduation from college, taught in Iowa State College as Professor of Public Speaking. He expects this coming year to attend Cornell University, where he will also be a member of the faculty. Mrs. Mattie Bahns Beeson attended Ypsilanti College, Michigan, and taught at Nos. 1 and 9 and was principal at Carrmonte. Mrs. Thelma Ewry Bauer attended Otterbein College and taught at Pasadena. She later took a business course and is now with the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railway Company. Miss Helen Hartsock graduated from Monmouth College and has taught at Centerville and Fairmont High Schools. Mr. George Hartsock also graduated from Monmouth, taught at Fairmont, and was Superintendent of the Van Buren Township Schools. Later he was with the Livingston Seed Company, of Columbus.

As time passed, the condition of these buildings became such that costly repairs were necessary. Many of them were no longer large enough to accommodate the increased enrollment of the districts. So, under the superintendency of Mr. Elmer G. Beeson, the question of the consolidation of these districts was brought to the attention of the Board of Education

for their consideration. It was found that it would be more expensive to repair the old buildings and to continue the separate schools than it would be to erect one new building of the modern type and transport the pupils thereto. The Board of Education also realized that, provided with a modern building and modern equipment, the teachers would be able to give more efficient service. Therefore they presented the subject to the citizens in the regular election and the results were favorable to consolidation. Accordingly, after due consideration of several possible sites, the present location in Pasadena was chosen. The construction was begun in 1916, but the building was not ready for use until the autumn of 1918.

Meanwhile, under the direction of Mr. Beeson, a committee, appointed by the Board of Education, visited and inspected several types of buildings and various systems used by the best schools. One of the schools visited was the famous school at Gary, Indiana. Mr. Beeson, having previously studied the "Departmental System," which has been so successfully used there, suggested that it be given a trial in the new school, to which plan the Board of Education agreed. So the work was outlined by the faculty and each member was given the subject for which she was especially prepared, or for which she would make special preparation during the summer term.

Hence, the first semester of 1918 opened with the following teachers as members of the faculty: Miss Wilhelmine Mohme, Grades 1 and 2; Mrs. Thelma Ewry Bauer, Grades 3 and 4 and instructor of English in all grades; Miss Helen Kelsey, Grades 5 and 6 and instructor of Geography in all grades and Spelling in Grades 5 to 8; Miss Onda Cassell, instructor of Industrial Arts, Physical Education, Art, History, and Penmanship in Grades 7 and 8; Miss Rose Miller, Principal and instructor in Arithmetic, Grades 4 to 8 and Penmanship, Grades 3 to 6; also taught Hygiene, Agriculture, and Civics in Grades 7 and 8. In addition to this work, each teacher had charge of the Reading, Memory Work, and other school activities of her own room.

The school opened with approximately 150 enrolled; it closed its eighth year (1926) with 286 enrolled. Therefore, because of this increased enrollment, grades were separated, more teachers secured, and another classroom added, thus providing nine classrooms in all, two of which can be used only as recitation rooms. In September of 1920, it was necessary to separate the first and second grades. Mrs. Pauline Caskey Darr was secured for the second. Those succeeding her have been: Mrs. Katharine Thomas, Mrs. Harriet Routsong Nutt, Mrs. Kathryn Routsong, and Miss Edith James. Thus in the following years it became necessary to separate all grades, the seventh and eighth remaining together only because of lack of room. Succeeding Miss Mohme in the first grade were Miss Gertrude Payne and Miss Mildred Liesman. Succeeding Mrs. Thelma Bauer were Mrs. Helen Brown Sunderland and Miss Thelma Jackson. Succeeding Mrs. Friend Couser in the fourth were Miss Thelma Jackson, Mrs. Kathryn Routsong, and Miss Miriam Saylor. Succeeding Miss Kelsey in the fifth and sixth were Mrs. Cora Kress Burschnell and Miss Thelma Lucas, fifth. Succeeding Miss Cassell, Mr. Friend Couser, Mr. J. Mark Holt, and Mr. Harry Phillips.

In addition to the regular subjects prescribed by the County Course of Study, the special subjects of Art, Domestic Science, Manual Training, Physical Education, and Music are offered.

In 1923, through the efforts of Rev. Ira C. Clark, the local United Brethren pastor, and the faculty, Pasadena School was privileged to offer an Elective Course in Religion, under the supervision of Miss Blanche Carrier. This was the first school in the county to offer a Course in Religion. The cost of this course is met by popular subscription.

Even though the school is not old and its graduates have not had long as yet to accomplish great things, yet many of them are proving their worth by excellent work in high school and college.

The Misses Marabelle and Helen Havens are both attending Wittenberg College and are winning many honors by their earnest endeavor and their talent as musicians. Miss Fannie Belle Worstell is a student at Miami University and has been honored by being elected president of the Student Council, president of Theta Upsilon Sorority, a member of the Motor Board, and has won distinction for her music and work in Dramatic Art. Mr. Elmer Coy, also a student at Miami, is becoming a very successful salesman. Miss Louise Wright is a student in her senior year at the Grace A. Greene Normal School, Dayton. Miss Grace Norris also attended the Dayton Normal and is now teaching at Carrmonte. Mr. Earl Creager is becoming a very successful business man, having chosen the grocery business as his field of activity.

Under the supervision of Miss Cassell, the students of the Domestic Science Class served hot lunches for the pupils at a nominal cost. However, as the enrollment increased, this plan was no longer feasible, because it required too much of the students' time. Therefore, with the help of the Board of Education, the services of a cook were procured. However, later the Welfare Club relieved the Board of this expense. Three members of the Welfare Club, Miss May Jones, Mrs. Ross Jones, and Mrs. Minnie Watkins, have served in that capacity. It is the aim of those in charge to serve only foods that are wholesome and suitable for children and to teach the boys and girls habits of cleanliness, as all hands must be washed before meals.

This little history would not be complete without mentioning the two faithful custodians, Mr. C. W. Long and Mr. E. F. Park, whose faithful service has added much to the success of the school's projects.

During the first school term of 1918 the mothers and friends met to dissolve the two existing clubs and to form a new organization, which they named "The Pasadena School Welfare Club," and elected Mrs. J. A. Henderson, president. This club has functioned splendidly and with the co-operation of the school has accomplished great good for the school and community. Some of the numerous things accomplished are: The purchase of a Steinway piano; equipment for the lunch room; drapery for the stage; a moving picture machine; supplies milk daily to undernourished pupils; has provided entertainments of music, lectures, pictures, and local talent programs for the community; helped to finance the shrubbery project that now beautifies the school lawn; and is now arranging for the beginning of a public library. Even though this has been a splendid record, yet both the school and club hope for greater progress and still greater success in the future.

Fairmont High School

1890-1914

By Stella Wiley

About the year 1890 a two-year high school course was offered at District No. 9. This continued until 1902, when the course was enlarged to a four-year course, and the classes were held in the old G. A. R. Hall in Beavertown. This arrangement, however, was only temporary until a suitable site could be chosen and a new building erected. After much deliberation by the Board of Education, it was decided to use the old Fairmont school site, and to erect thereon a building large enough to accommodate both the grades and the high school. This building was completed and ready for use in the fall of 1906.

The teachers at No. 9 were: W. O. Smith, Mott Souders, Edwin Kolb, Mr. Sechrist, Charles Fox, John Smith. At G. A. R. hall: John Smith, W. C. Hatfield, Harry Iams.

The four-room brick building at Fairmont was considered quite complete and modern. The two rooms on the east side were used for grade work for a number of years. The two rooms on the west afforded pleasant class-rooms for the high school and the folding doors between them made possible an auditorium. The construction of a platform and the arrangement of curtains presented difficulties which tried the most ingenious of teachers at times, but the obstacles always disappeared with persistent effort, and very successful programs were given.

In 1906-7 there were still only two teachers, Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Vliet. The next year, the township music teacher was given half-time work in the high school. The teaching force then consisted of Mr. Hatfield, Superintendent, Miss Stella Wiley, and Miss Mary Whaley, the half-time teacher. It was during this year that the Starr piano was bought which is still in use. As there was a good deal of talent in the school, the piano added much to the school programs, and stimulated interest in music. The high school enrollment at this time was about forty. Classes were small, but many, and the full-time teachers had as many as nine, covering a wide range of subjects.

In 1908, Mr. C. W. Plessinger became superintendent and remained for three years. Miss Wiley was associated with him, during this time and Mr. Arthur Henderson and Miss Bertha Currier were half-time teachers. In 1910 a third full-time teacher was hired, Mr. Milton Wright, who taught science and mathematics.

About this time two basement rooms were fitted up as laboratories. Additional equipment was put in for chemistry and physics. The library was card catalogued and an effort was made to establish its systematic use. After State inspection, the high school was granted a first grade charter, of which pupils and teachers were justly proud.

In 1911 Mr. Chester Routsong, Miss Wiley, and Mr. George Hartsock constituted the teaching corps. Until this time the student body had been strictly rural. Boys and girls drove to school and a commodious shed sheltered their horses and buggies. When the car line was built from Dayton to Moraine City, it was easier for pupils to reach the city, and immediately the influence of the city was felt. From this time on the rapid growth of the city south has gradually changed the character of the student body from rural to suburban.

Old Fairmont High School Building Still Used.

In 1912 Mr. Hartsock became superintendent and Miss Wiley and Mr. Henger were the other members of the faculty. The next year Mr. Henger was succeeded by Mr. Beeson.

A number of alumni who graduated from Fairmont during this period of her history became teachers in the township. A goodly number graduated from various colleges and are holding responsible positions. Mr. Thomas Prugh, Mr. Russell Young, and Mr. Paul Routsong have been members of the Board of Education. Mr. Dwight Barnes, Mr. Russell Wagner, Mr. P. H. Routsong, and Miss Helen Hartsock have held positions as Fairmont High School teachers.

Much credit is due the Board of Education, by whose faithful service a firm foundation has been laid for the present efficient high school and whose sole interest has been to promote the cause of education.

FAIRMONT, SINCE 1914

Since 1914, the following board members have given their services faithfully and conscientiously: Messrs. J. Mason Prugh, Clarence Neibel, Elmer Wonderly, George Leiter, Harley Woodman, Thomas K. Prugh, Chester Crowder, Harry Manning, Howard Kepler, Russell Young. Those now contributing their services in this capacity are: Messrs. C. H. Parsons, V. H. Whipple, P. H. Routsong, A. W. Shock, and C. M. Phillips. During this period Mr. Dean and Clark Powell have assisted as clerk of the board.

Mr. A. A. Maysilles has been County Superintendent during this span of years and under his able leadership the following assistants have given their time and devoted energy to the requirements of our school: Mr. E. G. Beeson, Mrs. Wilbur Nutt, Mr. D. A. Puderbaugh. Mr. D. L. Barnes succeeded Mr. Puderbaugh as Township Superintendent this spring.

New Building at Fairmont High School.

Clark Powell
P. H. Routsong

C. H. Parsons
V. H. Whipple

C. M. Phillips
A. W. Shock

The following teachers have taught at Fairmont at different times since 1914: Messrs. Ray Sunderland, Ralph Routsong, Paul Routsong, John Hancock, Russell Wagner, Charles Fabing, Dwight Barnes, C. P. Warner, J. E. Prass, William Ramsey, R. L. Purdy, Williard Groby, Harold Boda, J. Garster, and W. B. Rimanoczy, and the Misses Nettie Lee Roth, Louise Spivey, Eda Wheatley, Stella Wiley, Minnie Balzhiser, Helen Hartsock, Ruth Woodman, Josephine Sheeder, Katherine Klinger, Alma Pierman, Margaret Wetherell, and Mrs. Paul Routsong. Miss Balzhiser has served continuously during this period.

In 1914, our first grade high school had a faculty composed of two and one-half teachers. Mr. Beeson, serving as Township Superintendent and as principal, taught one-half of his time and Mr. Sunderland and Miss Balzhiser comprised the remainder of the faculty, with instructions to lead a student body of approximately forty-five students along the flowery path of knowledge. The school was then conducted in the rooms now occupied by the cafeteria and the dining room, which space afforded us two large recitation rooms, while the science and manual training were conducted in the basement. The remainder of the old building was then used by grade pupils.

The year 1916 marked the first bazaar. This was held in the old building for the purpose of getting a fund started for the erection of a gymnasium and an auditorium, but this early plan was abandoned by the stress of war requirements. Initial steps were also taken this year for the organization of the High School Alumni Association.

One of the most unique school events of the Township was the pageant held at the Country Club in the spring of 1918. All who were present that day will recall the hot sunshine, the historical scenes presented by the grade pupils, and the original production, "America's Gift to Civilization," by the high school. Every child in the township had a part in this pageant.

The conception of the idea of erecting the present building by Mr. Fabing, then principal, was followed by a successful vote on a bond issue for that purpose. The duty of seeing those early plans realized devolved on Mr. Barnes, who succeeded Mr. Fabing as principal, and on Mr. Puderbaugh, who succeeded Mrs. Nutt as superintendent. The original plans had to be greatly altered and enlarged because of the return of Belmont to the township in 1923.

The class of 1924 issued the first Annual of recent years. This class also instituted the custom of a class memorial, presenting a beautiful living room suite for the auditorium. As a continuation of this work, the class of 1925 presented the furniture for the rest room and the shield of F. H. S. monogram above the stage. The classes of 1926 and 1927 left, as their memorial, a sum of money sufficient to cancel the debt on the new piano.

During these years Fairmont has taken great interest in the County Literary and Musical Contests, in Athletics, and in plays and entertainments. First place in the county was awarded to Mr. Lawrence Kauffman and to Miss Francess Prugh (Mrs. Paul Routsong), in Oration; to Miss Fannie Bell Worstell, in Declamation; to Miss Eunice Watkins (Mrs. .....) in Bible Reading; to Mrs. Helen Havens, in Girl's Solo; to Miss Marabelle Havens, in Violin Solo; to Mr. Robert Routsong, in Boy's Solo; to Mr.

Harold Engle, in Trombone Solo; to Mr. Franklin Puderbaugh, in Cornet Solo; to Miss Harriet Bridgeman, in Girl's Solo, and to the Mixed Chorus. Our school won second place in the county this year in basket ball. Marked advance has been observed in the nature and method of presenting the annual junior and senior plays of recent years. Much of this success is traceable to the new building, which has given the faculty a splendid auditorium and gymnasium.

Minnie A. Balzhiser.

DWIGHT L. BARNES
Principal of Van Buren Township
High School from 1922 to 1926.

Elected Superintendent of the township schools and commenced his duties August 1, 1926. He and his efficient corps of high school teachers have worked hard in building up Fairmont High.

J. E. Prass
R. L. Purdy

Minnie A. Balzhiser
Stella M. Wiley

C. P. Warner
William Ramsey

H. L. Boda
Nettie Miller
Helen W. Hartsock
W. B. Rimanoczy
Willard W. Groby
Margaret Wetherill

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of Montgomery County, Ohio, assembled in regular session, at Dayton, Ohio, this Eighteenth day of August, in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-six, and being the first meeting following the voluntary retirement of our beloved Superintendent,

ANDREW A. MAYSILLES.

AND WHEREAS, The duties encumbered upon him by the said office, have been discharged in such a manner that showed not only a high moral conception of and respect for its requirements, but a fulfillment of the trust imposed that bespoke moral courage, unstinted devotion, personal sacrifice of time and strength, irreproachable character, love of God and his works, the work of a master, helper, friend, advisor, leader, and Christian gentleman, with a heart as though he was by the Master taught, and

WHEREAS, The Board, after having tried and used of his service the full time of which he would consent to serve and finding him without fault or wanting, are pleased to give this testimony of his character and service and, being desirous of showing a more visible appreciation of his service, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we recommend him to any walk or avenue of life in which he should desire to engage hereafter, with perfect confidence that he will be worthy of and fulfill any trust that he will accept, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Board and then sent to our faithful friend.

Adopted August 18, 1926, A. D.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO.

C. W. Plessinger, County Superintendent.
George W. Kemp, Co. Attendance Officer.
Charles A. Eicher, President.
George M. Hittle, Vice-Pres.
Dawes T. Bennert.
C. A. Sprague.
E. M. Heisey.

A Brief History of the Schools of Washington Township

By W. A. Driscoll

Note:—Data procured largely from Rev. B. F. Vaughan, Mr. John Kindle, and "The History of Mr. Joseph Nutt."

Washington Township was first settled in February, 1796, near the present site of Centerville. The first settlers consisted of a small company of men from Kentucky, among whom were Aaron Nutt, Benjamin Robins, and Benjamin Archer.

At the time of the first settlement the township was a forest-covered area peopled with wild turkeys and wilder bears. These denizens of the forest furnished the chief supply of food for the early settlers.

In 1797, Dr. John Hole located three and one-half miles northwest of Centerville, on what he named Silver Creek, but what soon came to be known as Hole's Creek, a name which it retains at the present day.

Almost every conceivable industry has at some time been carried on within the limits of the township. Hole's and Sugar Creeks have afforded employment for no less than seven sawmills, five flouring mills, one cotton factory, one fulling mill, and one oil mill. Besides this water-power machinery there have been in use at different times two horse-power carding machines and three steam saw-mills. At least four tanyards have been sunk in the township. At Woodburn in 1819 a shop was erected for the manufacture of stoves, pots, kettles, and machinery of all kinds. In 1820, Anthony Jones had an establishment at Woodburn for printing bedspreads, quilts, etc. Carriage springs were made at Stringtown as early as 1835.

The township was organized as a township in 1803 and it is probable that the first school was organized about the same time, although no data were found verifying this. The district schools of Washington Township increased in number from one to nine, these schools being numbered from the southeast corner north, then south through the middle of the township and then north again with three rows of schools across the township and three schools in each row.

Education of a type higher than that offered by the elementary school was not provided until 1848. In this year a two-story stone building was erected at a cost of $3,000 and in this an academy was established with Professor Johnson in charge. Besides the languages, mathematics, and sciences, there was taught bookkeeping, surveying, and history. This building was afterward sold to the Baptists, who erected a church on its site, the present Baptist Church.

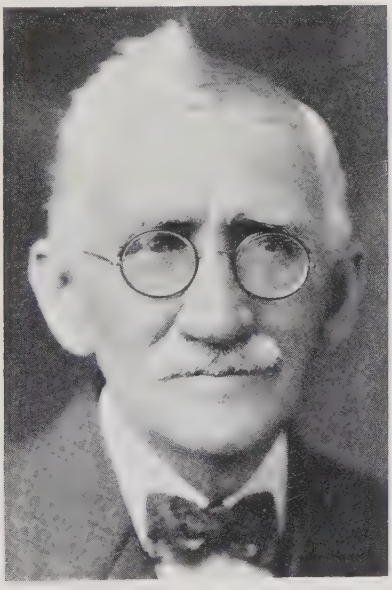
After the days of the Old Stone Academy, which was torn down in the early seventies, Select Schools were held in the following halls:

In the old hall over the blacksmith shop of Joseph Kindle, Sr., a school was conducted by Mr. G. W. Terry. Eighteen pupils attended this select or subscription school.

In the old Township Hall, which was lately torn down and moved to the farm of Mr. Arthur Weller, one and one-half miles northeast of Centerville, a thriving select school was conducted by Mr. W. S. Marshall, an unusually keen and competent teacher. Mr. Marshall had charge of this school for four years, from September, 1881, until the spring of 1885.

OLD WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

This building is shown in contrast with the New Centralized School as an evidence of the progress of a few years. Many graduates, however, will remember this as their high school and it must be admitted that it served a good purpose in its day.



REV. B. F. VAUGHAN

is the oldest resident teacher in Washington Township. He taught in District No. 1 in 1874. During the school year 1884-85 he taught in District No. 5. Mr. Vaughan is Secretary Emeritus of the Miami Ohio Christian Conference.

The township high school was built in 1885. Professor Marshall taught the first school in this building, September, 1886 to May, 1887. He then went to Bellbrook to take up school work and his cousin, Mr. G. M. Beall, taught the school for one year, 1887-1888. He was succeeded by Miss Anna Nutt, who taught one year, 1888-1889. Miss Nutt was succeeded by Mr. Weaver, who taught two years, 1889-1891. Mr. Theodore S. Fox taught three years, 1891-1894. Mr. D. W. Klepinger taught two years, 1894-1896. These teachers served as principals of the high school and supervised the schools of the township.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Standing, left to right—Earl Thomas, Samuel Simpson.
Sitting—Joseph Lucas, President; Edgar Wilson, Earl Miller.

Mr. William H. Leiter was employed as principal and superintendent in 1896 and continued to serve until the spring of 1904. He was succeeded by Mr. G. W. Clemens, who had to resign in the spring of 1905, because of poor health. His term was completed by Mr. R. D. Ewing, who had charge of the school until 1908. Mr. Ewing was succeeded by Mr. D. A. Puterbaugh, who had charge of the schools until 1914. It was during his term that the office of District Superintendent was created. After this change took place, Miss Ada Potter, who had been a teacher in the high school since 1908, became the principal of the high school, and later was employed as District Superintendent, in charge of this township and one or two others. Miss Potter continued to serve in this capacity until June, 1921, having been connected with the schools of the township for thirteen years.

In the summer of 1921 Mr. H. V. Bear was given charge of the schools of Washington Township, as a part of his work as Assistant County Superintendent. Mr. Bear has labored very effectively in behalf of the Washington Township Schools from 1921 until the present time. During this time, in 1922, centralization was voted upon and carried and in the spring of 1923 the new building was begun. This was completed in January, 1924. Mr. W. H. Harlan was principal of the high school at this time, having succeeded Mr. H. E. Michael, who was principal two years, 1920-23. Mr. Harlan was succeeded as principal by Mr. Ward W. Leis, who was followed in the fall of 1925 by the present principal, Mr. W. A. Driscoll.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CENTRALIZED SCHOOL

The members of the Board of Education at the time of construction in 1923 and 1924 were Mrs. Bertha McClure. President; Joseph Lucas, Vice-President; Edward Hamilton, Earl Miller, Chester Palmer, W. W. Lawson was Clerk-Treasurer.

The New Centralized Building at Centerville.

Supt. Bear and Teaching Corps at Centerville in 1925 and 26.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TEACHERS

The training of the young people of Washington Township is entrusted to their care.

Top Row, reading from left to right—Margaret Schuberth, Home Economics and Latin; Minnie Vance, Seventh Grade; H. V. Bear, Superintendent; W. A. Driscoll, Principal and Science; Thomas Smith, Assistant Principal and Manual Training; Mary Harper, Third Grade.

Lower Row—Ruth Murray, First Grade; Dorothy Kinderdine, Fifth Grade; Floris Gatts, Fourth Grade; Ruth Rosell, Sixth Grade; Christena Wahl, Social Subjects; Mildred Clark, Second Grade; Sarah Welsh, English.

The school has advanced rapidly in the last five years. The enrollment in the high school has practically doubled, there being 104 enrolled this school year. The enrollment in the grades has increased considerably. The curriculum has been enlarged to meet the increasing demands of society. Courses in music, home economics, and manual training add to the advantages the pupils now enjoy. A wide-awake Parent-Teachers Association is helping to make the school a modern and practical one. Our future promises much. May the patrons never falter in their support of their school.

Domestic Science Class in Washington Township Centralized School.

History of Wayne Township Schools

By Mrs. Florence Shepherd

The Board of Education of Wayne Township, realizing that the present educational advantages provided for its youth, are due largely to the energy and enterprise of its pioneers, who first started the wedge of education, offers the following brief history of its schools:

In compiling a history of the schools of this township, many things have been discovered which are of interest and which have a direct bearing on the establishing and operating of the schools of this community. A lack of space compels the omittance of these historical happenings. The eliminating of the names of many important men and women is also necessary.

The history of the schools begins with the establishing of the township as such. This district was established from a portion of Dayton Township, as a result of a petition from the inhabitants, on January 1, 1810.

The early vision of these pioneers in education can be seen in the fact that there was a school established before the township was created. The first log schoolhouse was built on the banks of Dry Run, in the autumn of 1809, on the farm of John Shafer, who had immigrated from Kentucky. The first teacher of the school was James Miller. During the same year another school was built in the northeast corner of the township, on the farm of Abraham Kendig. The average attendance was thirteen. The first teacher was Daniel Haiman. This building burned to the ground in 1813 and a better school building was erected near-by on the Cuppy farm.

The closer relationship of church and school might well be noted, for these buildings were used by various religious sects for their services. The pioneer minister, Reverend David Winters, preached his first sermon in the log schoolhouse on Dry Run.

As the above mentioned log schoolhouses were torn down, new ones replaced them and more districts were added to the township, until the total number was six, namely: Cuppy's, District No. 1; Election (Sulphur Grove), District No. 2; Wayne Chapel, District No. 3; Banks, District No. 4; Oak Grove, District No. 5, and Fairview, District No. 6. These district schools were the schools of this township from the early history until the year 1915.

Many tributes have been paid the teachers who taught in these district schools. Among the names of these teachers we find those of Thomas Minnich and Millie Holt Evans, both residing in Dayton.

Among the District Superintendents of the period of 1905-1915 we find the names of C. P. Evans (the son of Millie Holt Evans), Professor John Smith, Superintendent of Butler Township Schools; Chester Miller, of the Cincinnati schools, and C. O. Edington, of the Columbus schools. Under the leadership of these able men, many pupils completed the course in the grades and entered the high schools in near-by communities. Among the speakers who delivered the eighth-grade commencement addresses we find the names of Dr. Cookson, Senator Simeon D. Fess, and A. A. Maysilles.

At a meeting of the Board of Education, on December 9, 1915, resolutions were passed calling for a special election, on December 30, 1915, to decide on centralization and the issuance of bonds to the sum of $26,000.00. The result of the vote was: For centralization, 120; against, 66. For bonds, 116; against, 68.

Oak Groove
School No. 5.

Site of Present
High School
Building.

Old Banks School.

Citizens Grading High School Playground.

Too much credit cannot be given Supt. A. A. Maysilles for his great enthusiasm in this new undertaking in causing the citizens of this township and the Board of Education to undertake and complete this worthy project.

Wayne Township was the first township in Montgomery County and one of the first in the State to centralize.

In the autumn of 1916 the first class of the high school was organized. The superintendent was P. P. Anspach, who later graduated from the Hanna Divinity School of Wittenberg and is now a missionary of the Lutheran Church in China. Roger Barr was superintendent of the school for the school year 1917-18. The war called him away. Following Mr. Barr was Miss Grace Morton. Wm. Yarnell was superintendent for the school year 1919-20. Under his superintendency the first class was graduated. At this time our school became a school of the first grade. Our charter was signed by the

P. P. Anspach

Honorable Vernon Reigel, who at this time delivered an address in the school auditorium, commending the patrons upon their splendid co-operation in making the school a success.

Olney S. Weaver was the superintendent of the school from 1921-1923; Herman Michael was superintendent from 1923-1925, and H. Ray Wagner for the school year 1925-1926.

C. O. Edington

Mr. Floyd Rasor is our present superintendent. His successful teaching experience and uprightness easily won him his position as leader of our boys and girls.

Working with these above mentioned superintendents has been an efficient corps of teachers. A number of these teachers are graduates of our high school who have fitted themselves for their profession in higher schools of learning.

The people of Wayne Township are proud of its school, for it is a real community center. The chief objective of the Woman's Club is working for the school.

The graduates of our school are numbered among the graduates of some of the leading colleges and universities.

The First Centralized Building in Montgomery County.

West Carrollton School History

Along with the completion of the great Miami and Erie Canal, in 1830, came a little settlement to be known as West Carrollton, Ohio. As has always been the case in our country, wherever a group of people have settled, one will soon see the schoolhouse in the midst thereof. The first schoolhouse to be built in this town was located to the rear of where the Presbyterian church now stands and was a log structure of two small rooms; the rear one being intended for the teacher's residence. This building was used for school purposes until 1850, when a brick house was built and which is now known as the Lutheran church. A number of our older folks recall happy (and otherwise) incidents in this old brick building, while they were there learning their three R'S. Several of the teachers brought to their minds are Mr. Snavley, Mr. Jno. Zimmerman, Mr. Samuel Henderson, Mr. Alex. Shandler, Miss Emma Smith, Miss Anna Rohrer, and Mr. Wm. Patterson.

Mr. Henderson is perhaps the most remembered one, as he and his wife kept the toll-gate on West Central Avenue during and following the time he taught there. He had a spotted poney named "Dolly Varden," which was a very common sight on the two streets of town at that time. Mr. Henderson was a great singer, two of his songs most beloved and which he had his pupils sing often were, "Old Dog Tray" and "Auld Lang Syne."

Mr. Wm. Patterson was the last teacher in this building, for in 1876 another building, a very pretentious structure of four rooms and made of brick was erected, several blocks to the east of the old building, mid-way, then, between Alexandersville and West Carrollton, in order to accommodate the pupils from both towns.

Of the four rooms, only three were used for several years. Mr. Thad Reis was the first principal of this building and his sister, Jennie, taught the primary grades. Following Mr. Reis came Mr. Harmon and Mr. Stokes as heads of the school.

It is a deplorable fact that the names of all teachers of the early period of our school history cannot be obtained. They were all figures in the history, not only of our schools, but of the town as well, and to all of them we owe much and are truly grateful.

The scholars increased so that the four rooms were not enough and four more rooms were added, making the building a two-story one. In 1905, however, this building was burned in the middle of the school term and then school was kept wherever there was a room available until the end of the term. The building was rebuilt, however, and school was again in session the following fall in its own building.

Previous to 1894, only elementary grades were taught and young men and women who were desirous of going farther were sent to Dayton or elsewhere. In 1894, however, Mr. W. C. Wilson became the Superintendent of Schools and was instrumental in organizing a two-year high school course.

The members of the Board of Education at that time were: J. H. Woods, President; O. M. Ellsworth, Secretary; J. B. Shannon, Treasurer; O. M. McRay, and O. S. Orrman.

The first class to graduate from the two-year course consisted of six graduates: Misses Eva Carr, Birdie Long, Catherine Snepp, Mattie Kendall,

Ellen Wise, and Frank Strader. The commencement was held Friday evening, May 22, 1896, in Union Block Hall and Mr. W. I. Crane, of Dayton, gave the address of the evening.

W. C. WILSON

Superintendent of the West Carrollton Schools from 1894 to 1903. He was instrumental in organizing a Two-year High School course and graduated the first class of six boys and girls in May, 1896.

Mr. Wilson remained as the head of the schools until 1903 and was followed by Mr. Roberts, who served two years and who in turn was followed by Mr. Austin, who also served two years.

Mr. J. E. Peterson became Superintendent in 1907, and remained four years at the head of the schools.

WEST CARROLLTON SCHOOLS
1911-1926

In September, 1911, Mr. C. W. Plessinger became Superintendent of the West Carrollton Schools, and has continued until the publication of this History, the summer of 1926. On August 1 of this year, Mr. Plessinger succeeded Mr. A. A. Maysilles as County Superintendent of Schools.

The following items are gleaned from page 298, Volume V, of the "History of Ohio," published by The American Historical Society, Inc., of New York and Chicago.

WEST CARROLLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It is very unusual to find in a factory town of some two thousand people such a well-organized educational system as that represented by the public schools of West Carrollton, a system that has been built up and developed by C. W. Plessinger, who has been Superintendent since 1911. Many larger cities in Ohio and other States could emulate with profit to the growing generation the spirit and effectiveness everywhere evident in this educational enterprise, which is perhaps one of the most modern and progressive to be found anywhere.

The public school system of West Carrollton consists of a high school of the first grade, a junior high school, intermediate grades, elementary grades, and a summer school, the last-named of which has been conducted for the past fifteen years under the personal direction of Mr. Plessinger. This school has about six hundred students enrolled, many of whom have been attracted from outside the district by the superior advantages offered.

Only a few years ago there were but eighteen pupils in the high school, and today the enrollment amounts to 125. The graduating class of 1926 alone numbered twenty-four, six more than the entire enrollment of fifteen years ago. This attests the standing of the high school in the West Carrollton community, for this increase of nearly 700 percent was an established fact before the recent laws covering compulsory education went into effect.

Quincy Garwood

Albert Miller

P. E. Gephart

Men of Unusual Strength of Character Who Served the West Carrollton Schools During the Recent Building Activities of the District.

Ratio Hinkson

C. H. Bloss
Clerk for 12 Years

Charles Arnold

Members of Board of Education at Present Time

The present Board of Education, at West Carrollton, pictured on the opposite page, are a progressive group of officials, and are doing much to make of West Carrollton an outstanding school community. Charles A. Sprague, President; Vergyl Hetzel, Vice-President; John S. Heeter, Clerk; John B. McNabb, and Charles Bogan.

All the modern courses are offered, including public speaking, domestic science, domestic art, mechanical drawing, complete commercial courses, shop-work, etc.

The school is conducted in a new building, costing $200,000, and equipped with all the latest appliances, including two motion picture machines, laboratories for Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture, Physics, and Domestic Science; a gymnasium, an auditorium, cafeteria, kitchen, shower baths, etc. One of the splendid features of the school is a $2,000 library, donated by Mrs. Elsie Rice, as a memorial to her son, Glenn Rice, who met an accidental death some years ago. The building has fifty-five rooms, and the intermediate and elementary grades are held on the second floor in well-lighted rooms. The high school publishes an annual, "The Wecaton," a $1,000 publication selling at one dollar. That the rating of the students of this school is high is evidenced by the fact that in recent inter-school contests they have won forty-nine gold and silver medals. The high school is one of the few which has a trust fund to be loaned to students going to college, this having been established by the late Mr. Henry L. Newell, West Carrollton's wealthiest citizen and builder of The American Envelope Company, a model plant.

C. W. Plessinger, Superintendent of the West Carrollton Public Schools, is a man of broad education and experience, and one who has devoted his life and career to the highest ideals of his calling. After completing his elementary training, he attended Otterbein College, the Ohio State University, and Columbia University of New York City, supplementing this by European study and travel with the late J. H. Patterson, the founder of The National Cash Register Company, of Dayton, who had Mr. Plessinger specially employed to tutor his children, the son Frederick, being the present President of the great N. C. R. Mr. Plessinger entered upon the duties of his present position in 1911, and from the start has been untiring in his efforts to make the West Carrollton school system worthy of the great State of Ohio, and of the nation—a labor which has been prolific of splendid results. In his work he has had the co-operation and support of a progressive set of men on his Boards of Education. At the present time the Board is as follows: C. A. Sprague, President; Jno. S. Heeter, Clerk; Jno. B. McNabb, Sr., Chas. Bogan, and Virgil Hetzel. Additional men who have served in like capacity in recent years are: C. H. Bloss, long the clerk of the Board, Albert Miller, Ratio Hinkson, Chas. Arnold, P. E. Gephart, and Quincy Garwood.

Recently there has been added to the West Carrollton School District three adjoining sub-districts, including Alexandersville, Moraine City, No. 3, and No. 12. This transfer was made by the County Board of Education, and upheld in the courts. This territory lies between West Carrollton and Dayton, and includes the General Motors subsidiary plants of "Delco-Light" and "Frigidaire."

The corps of teachers has grown from nine in 1911 to twenty-seven in 1926. Bible classes have been held in the schools for two years past, the

instructors being Miss Icke and Miss Eidemiller, from the Sunday School Council of Religious Education for Montgomery County.

The institution of sixth grade commencements and graduation into the junior high school was begun in West Carrollton in May, 1926.

The high school in May, 1926, began the publication of a monthly newspaper, "The Echo," intended as a part of the work in English and Journalism.

The school property includes six acres, some four acres being given over to an athletic field.

The high school at West Carrollton is Class "A," First Grade—so designated by the State Department of Education. When it is recalled that hundreds of schools of First Grade are Class "B" or "C," and when it is recalled that some high schools belonging to the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, are Class "B," some idea of the quality of school work done at West Carrollton may be obtained.

During the school year, 1925-1926, an "Opportunity Room" for ungraded pupils has been maintained and with marked success.

The summer school at West Carrollton has been continued without interruption for fifteen years. Pupils absent during a part of the regular school year because of illness, pupils slow to learn, pupils over-age, etc.—all such have had the advantage of individual instruction, with the result that scores of pupils have "made" their regular classes, and gone on to graduation.

County Superintendent A. A. Maysilles, since the beginning of his incumbency, 1914, has been of notable and inestimable value to the schools of West Carrollton. Whatever course was good for the child, that course Superintendent Maysilles has unfalteringly pursued. His inspiring addresses delivered at West Carrollton on numerous occasions are recalled with great pride by great numbers of people. It is but fair to say that the schools of Montgomery County have progressed more during the years of service of Mr. Maysilles than they had in all previous years of their history.

WEST CARROLLTON TEACHING CORPS IN 1925-26

Grade 1—Miss Corien Bonnerout.
Grade 1—Miss Ruth Cromwell.
Grade 2—Miss Mabel Schell.
Grade 2—Miss Ruth Rutherford.
Grade 3—Miss Drusilla Shepherd.
Grade 3—Miss Mildred Baker.
Grade 4—Miss Florence Throckmorton.
Grade 4—Miss Julia Jennings.
Grade 5—Miss Welcome Hart.
Grade 5—Mr. Jas. Higgins.
Grade 6—Miss Lucille Schreck.
Opportunity Room—Mr. Robt. Minnich.
Grades 7-8—Mr. Earl Dils.
Grades 7-8—Mr. Clifford Rinehart.
Grades 7-8—Mr. R. A. Young.
Music—Miss Bonnie Ray.
Home Economics—Miss Estelle Barton.
Bible Instructor—Miss Sara Icke.
Bible Instructor—Miss Ruth Eidemiller.
Manual Arts and Biology—Mr. Forrest Lowry.
Commercial Subjects—Miss Fae Greene.
Speech-Arts Instructor—Miss Lena Trace.
French, Latin, English—Miss Helen Hinkson.
Spanish, English, History, Arithmetic—Miss Thyra Roberts.
Mathematics, Chemistry, Economics, Geography—Mr. H. A. Russell.
History, Occupations, Community Civics—Mr. R. A. Young.
Athletics—Mr. H. A. Russell.
History, English, Physics—Mr. J. A. Bouts, Principal of High School.
History, Government, Economics, Sociology, English—C. W. Plessinger, Superintendent.

West Carrollton Teaching Corps in 1925-26

This building was erected in 1876 and served until 1923.

High School Building erected in 1914.

The present building at West Carrollton was erected in 1922 and 1923.

Mason Douglass, County Board of Education Member

Mason Douglass, Dayton attorney with offices in the Keith Theater Building, was appointed to membership on the County Board of Education, October 20, 1926. Mr. Douglass succeeds Mr. Charles A. Eicher, who recently resigned. He is a young man of education, ability, and power of commanding address. He was born in Alabama in 1894, and the university of his native State granted him the A. B. Degree in 1914, and the L. L. B. Degree in 1917. Mr. Douglass has seen service in the field of education and is admirably fitted for his new duties. For a number of years he has been very active in numerous educational, civic, and church movements, and is a member of the Christian Church.

Mason Douglass

Mr. Douglass has an enviable war record. During the World War he was a First Lieutenant in the 320th Machine Gun Battalion. He saw two years of military service, nine months of which was in France. He participated in many of the major military campaigns on the Western Front, including the St. Mihiel Drive, Meuse-Argonne, and was wounded in the Argonne Forest. In appreciation of his military services, the United States Government awarded Mr. Douglass the Distinguished Service Cross; the French Government awarded him the Croix de Guerre; and other awards came from still other governments.

Mr. Douglass has traveled widely. He has been a teacher. He has a rapidly increasing law practice, yet finds time to serve as an instructor in the Dayton Y. M. C. A. Law School.

Mr. Douglass resides in Wayne Township, where the other members of his home circle include Mrs. Douglass and their twin girls.

He is intensely interested in the problems of citizenship and of government, more particulary in education in democracy. He will prove a fine addition to the membership of the County Board of Education, and will be of marked service to the schools of Montgomery County.

The appointment of Mr. Douglass came after this book was on the press, which accounts for the fact that the above article and picture appear separate from the other County Board members and pictures.

C. W. Plessinger.